THE TIMES

No. 66,501 | FRIDAY APRIL 30 1999 | http://www.the-times.co.uk

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TOMORROW: JOINING THE SATURDAY TIMES
Christopher Martin-Jenkins
England's cricket future



30p EVERY WEEKDAY

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US firms poised to run benefits system

By Adam Sherwin

TONY BLAIR has approved plans for the biggest privatisation yet by inviting companies to run the delivery of the £110 billion benefit system.

The initiative — known as the Single Work-Focused Gateway — will be Labour's key welfare reform proposal at the next general election and is likely to lead to American companies running large swaths of the benefit system.

A restricted document, leaked to *The Times*, reveals that two American-based companies, Arthur Andersen and Deloitte Consulting, are shortlisted to run four pilot operations which will begin in November and are then expected to go nationwide.

In a foreword to the confidential document, Mr Blair dismisses the welfare state as a second-class, failed service and urges private sector companies to help to create a modern system.

The move, which could see major job losses and thousands of civil servants transferred to the private sector, will infuriate the trade unions, alarm Labour backbench MPs and take important areas of responsibility away from local authorities.

The Government intends to create a nationwide system whereby all claimants will make just one application to receive a variety of benefits. At the moment, claimants must apply to the Employment Service for the jobseeker's allowance, the Benefits Agency for income support and local council offices for council tax benefit. The Government believes this encourages duplication and fraud.

Under the Gateway plan, claimants will be given a personal adviser who will create a package for all their needs. Staff at the various benefits agencies will all work for the private operators and ultimately the Government wants all benefit payments to be rolled into one cheque.

The four pilot projects will be conducted in Leeds, Cheshire, Nottinghamshire and Suffolk, with Deloitte Consulting and Arthur Andersen on all four shortlists.

It is only two years since a Whitehall ban on Andersen bidding for public work was lifted after the Conservative Government sued the firm over its advice on the DeLorean car venture. An auditors' report last year in Canada, where Anderson was contracted to overhaul the Ontario benefit system, claimed that the company charged up to six times more per hour than the previous cost of civil servants.

Deloitte Consulting of Philadelphia specialises in turning round failing businesses and has administered the controversial Wisconsin Works programme, which has removed five million claimants from the welfare rolls in the past three years.

The Prime Minister is understood to be frustrated with the pace of change in the welfare system. He has chaired meetings of a working group on the Gateway project and urged the Employment Minister Andrew Smith to push ahead with the plan.

In a document entitled *The Vision: The Single Work-Focused Gateway*, distributed to civil servants and potential bidders this month, he wrote: "In the past, the Welfare State has too often provided a second-class service. It has failed to do enough to help people into work. We believe that this needs to change. A modernised welfare system should be helping people to become independent, rather than locking them into dependency.

"We want to move to a streamlined and efficient system in which there is a single point of access to welfare."

A Whitehall source said: "There has been a lot of drift but Blair has finally grasped this issue. They want it up and running by 2001, but realistically it will begin after the next election."

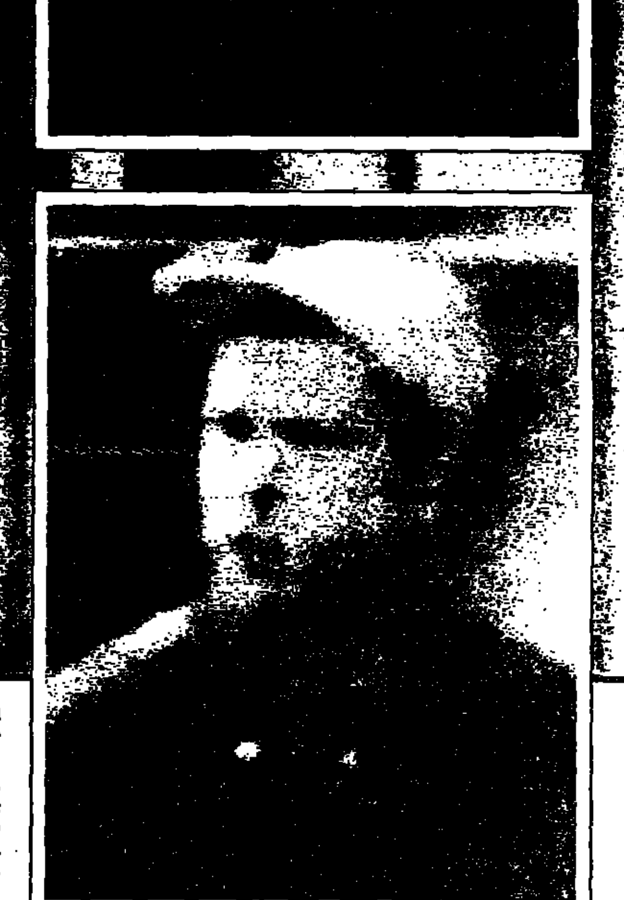
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IS THIS THE MAN WHO PLANTED THE BRIXTON NAIL BOMB?





These closed-circuit television pictures of the prime suspect in the hunt for the Brixton nail bomber have been released by Scotland Yard after being enhanced by FBI and Nasa technicians and by British scientists (Stewart Tendler writes).

They show a 5ft 6in white man in his twenties, who was photographed in the centre of Brixton carrying a sports bag similar to the one containing the bomb which exploded on April 17, injuring 39 people.

The man is seen arriving in the area with the bag about an hour and a half before the blast and is later seen without the bag. One section of film shows him walking away from the bus stop in the High Road, where the bomb was left. It was moved by a passer-by to the corner of an Iceland store, where it went off — and the man is also seen there.

Assistant Commissioner David Veness, of the Metropolitan Police, said: "We have a range of material which leads us to the unequivocal view that the investigation focuses on this man's face. It is our number one priority to identify this man."

Nato missile hits wrong capital

From Charles Bremner in Brussels

NATO sought yesterday to limit the diplomatic damage from an air-launched missile which went astray and destroyed a house in the suburbs of Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria.

In the latest blunder of the air campaign, the alliance said the missile strayed after it had been fired at a Serbian surface-to-air missile site that had tracked it with radar. "After the ground radar was turned off, the missile strayed from its target and unintentionally landed in Bulgaria," Jamie Shea, Nato's spokesman, said.

The Bulgarians, whose capital is 40 miles from the Serbian frontier, said the missile was fired by an F16 which had entered its air space. The missile hit a house in which a family was sleeping but no one was hurt.

Nato offered its regrets to Bulgaria, where the Government has been backing the Nato campaign despite extensive public and political opposition. The alliance promised to ensure that there was no repeat of the incident. General Henry Kievenaar, of the US Army, was sent to apologise to President Stoyanov, who expressed "great concern".

As Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, sought to reassure the Bulgarian Ambassador to the alliance, Russia seized on the incident as an example of what the Foreign Ministry called the "insanity" of the campaign. "The circle of states which have fallen under Nato's stray rockets is steadily expanding . . . the Bulgarian capital joined Albania and Macedonia on the list last night," the ministry said.

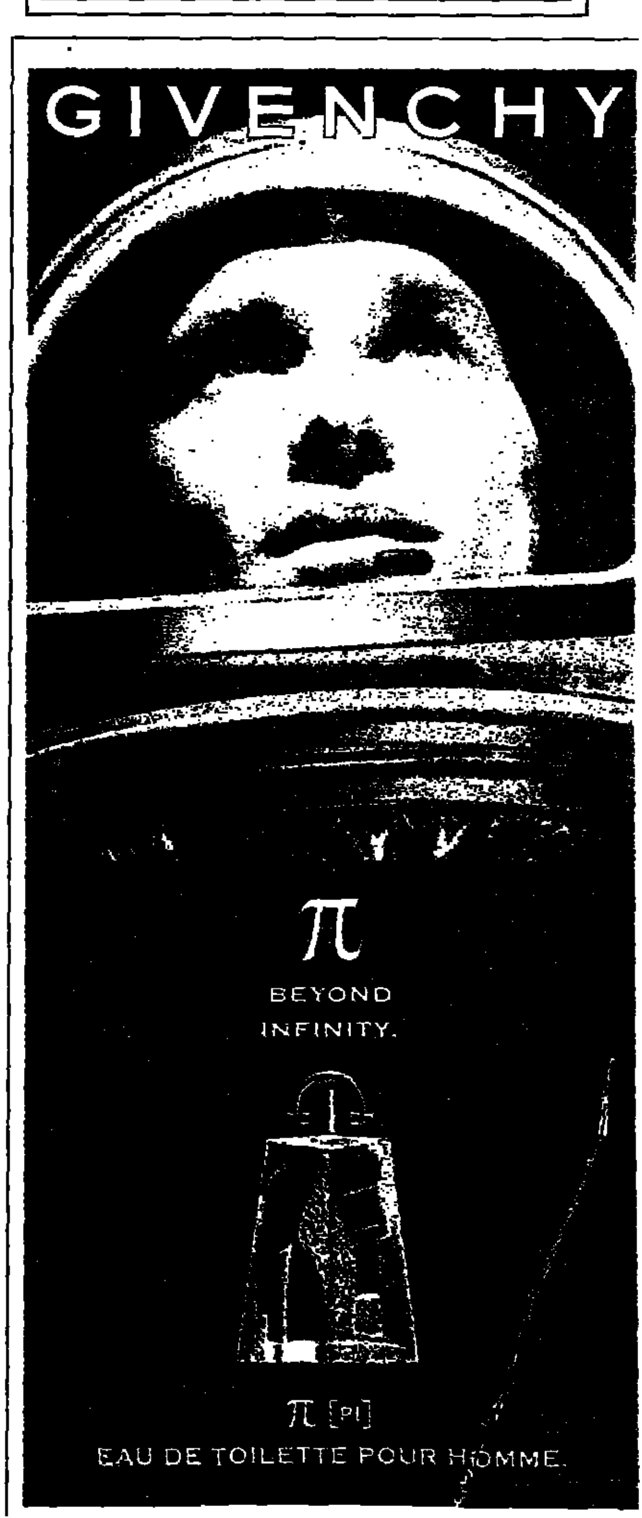
Bulgaria, a would-be member of Nato and the European Union, voiced annoyance and said three other Nato missiles had landed on its territory earlier. "There has not been such a drastic violation of our airspace so far," said Bogomil Bonev, the Interior Minister. Bulgaria would sue the pilot for the damage and distress to the house's occupants, he said.

Despite the incident, the Government is expected to go ahead with a proposal to the Bulgarian parliament to provide Nato with a 70- to 90-mile air corridor along the western border, Mr Bonev said.

Nadezhda Mihailova, the Foreign Minister, urged Nato to supply Bulgaria with sophisticated radar equipment to improve the country's ability to identify aircraft. Bulgaria would also mark its western border with lights so allied pilots could see where they were going, she said.

Nato is reinforcing its air armada in the Balkans. The RAF yesterday committed eight more warplanes — four Harriers and four Tornados — and the Pentagon announced it was sending ten more B52 bombers to Europe.

Photograph, page 19
War reports, pages 18-20
Leading article and Letters, page 27



Pinochet may be given legal aid

By Joanna Bale

BRITISH taxpayers could be saddled with a multimillion-pound legal bill from General Pinochet after Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, announced that the former dictator may be entitled to legal aid.

Until now, General Pinochet's £1 million legal costs have been funded by donations from supporters in Chile. But, amid fears that the money could run out, Lord Lamont of Lerwick, in a written question in parliament, asked Lord Irvine if General Pinochet could be entitled to legal aid.

Lord Irvine's answer, made on Wednesday, was: "Yes. Any person in proceedings such as these may apply for legal aid and it would be for the courts to decide whether legal aid is granted." Lord Lamont said yesterday: "I asked this question because it seems to me to be grossly unfair that Senator Pinochet should be held in this country in such a scandalous way and be expected to pay a legal bill which may run into many millions of pounds."

A spokeswoman for the Lord Chancellor said General Pinochet's finances would be thoroughly investigated before he was granted legal aid. "The bulk of the cost would be met from central government funds," she said.

Fernando Barros, General Pinochet's legal adviser, said supporters would continue to donate money but legal aid was a possible alternative if the funds began to run out.

"Who ordered the triple bypass?"

Heart surgery on the pub floor

A doctor who performed open-heart surgery on a stabbing victim while he lay on a pub floor saved his life. Dr Heather Clark of The Royal London Hospital opened Stephen Niland's chest with scissors as drinkers stood by discussing football....Page 5

Sack Lilley, senior Tories tell Hague

By Philip Webster and Roland Watson

WILLIAM HAGUE is being urged by senior Conservatives and close political aides to sack Peter Lilley, his deputy, after the public services row that has damaged the party in the run-up to the mid-term elections.

They blame Mr Lilley, who is in charge of the Tory policy review, for springing on Mr Hague his controversial speech setting limits on the role of the private sector in health and education, and for failing to allow enough time for consultation on it.

They also criticise him for failing to foresee the political fallout that would be caused by the shift in the middle of the campaign for the elections.

At the same time Mr Lilley is being attacked for what front-benchers claim is the failure so far of the policy review.

The Times has learnt that Mr Hague is to take a much greater hands-on role in the policy process since the events of the past few days. He has accepted criticism that the review has been too slow and too unfocused.

A close aide to Mr Hague said: "There's a lack of pace, energy and creativity about our policy-making." He added that Mr Hague could sack Mr Lilley without any fear of a backlash from the party: "There are no Lilley supporters on the backbenches."

Peter Riddell, page 15
Simon Jenkins, page 26

Courts trump Parliament over a vacancy that never was

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

SHORTLY before three o'clock yesterday afternoon, a small blonde lady in a chic little black suit with brass buttons stood beneath the neo-Gothic portals of the St Stephen's entrance to the House of Commons and posed in the April sunshine for the press. Fiona Jones was an MP again.

The former Member for Newark, removed after a conviction for election offenees, has been returned to her post after winning an appeal against conviction. A modest crowd gathered to witness the occasion.

And occasion it was. On Wednesday Ms Jones was apparently not an MP. Today she apparently is. There has not been an election. This sketch stands open to correction, but in my memory this is the first person ever to be created a Member of Parliament by the High Court.

Or has she? Madam Speaker was exquisitely vague when she announced the decision to MPs after Questions at 12.30pm. The Divisional Court, she told the Commons, had decided that the constituency of Newark "is not vacant".

Not vacant? Plainly, then, it is now occupied. But was it occupied before?

Madam Speaker's short statement appeared to take the form of a newsflash rather than a ruling. It was not the Chair pronouncing Ms Jones a Member of Parliament; she was simply telling MPs what a court had decided. To report, as (as it were) an observation, that the Newark seat is not now vacant, begs a question: has the seat been vacant these last few weeks, after Ms Jones was removed — or apparently removed?

If not, if she never was validly removed, then the court has trumped Madam Speaker herself and voided Miss Boothroyd's earlier declaration of a vacancy. Will Jones now be reimbursed for lost salary and allowances?

But what if her appeal had not begun until after a replacement MP had been elected in a by-election? What if (say) new evidence had come to light, exonerating her — but after the poll? Would the newcomer then *be stripped of* the office to which the electors of Newark *thought* they had just elected him or her? Presumably. That would be a rum *state of* affairs. Lucky that the Tories' recent bid to trigger the by-election failed!

If, however, the court's ruling allows that there was, temporarily, a *situation* made vacant *by Madam Speaker's* ruling — to which they have now reinstated the previous in*cumbent — then* a court has bypassed both electorate and Parliament and created some*one an* MP. Should Jones not take the Oath a second time? That, too, would be a rum state of affairs.

Why was this matter ever passed to the courts? Was the Chair not the appropriate authority to review its own ruling? Your sketchwriter is no constitutional lawyer, but the whiff of jurisprudential confusion, and perhaps error, is strong. Miss Boothroyd is right at least in this: the thing's a mess.

For Fiona Jones the mess did not spoil a triumphant end to a turbulent day. Nor should it have. Graham Allen, the Government whip for her region, *met her at the* entrance and escorted her in to the Chamber. The House *was almost empty.* MPs were discussing the Green Belt.

Ms Jones sat down next to *Joe Ashton,* the MP who has recently endured a spot of bother over his visits to a *Thai massage parlour* in Northampton, and survived. There was no finger-wagging *by either to either. Great* is the *mutual* compassion of former *refusées*.

Law on election expenses to be re-written

Reinstatement of Labour MP prompts new Bill, writes Roland Watson

NEW laws governing election expenses will be in place before *the next general election,* government officials indicated yesterday after the High Court reinstated Fiona Jones as Labour MP for Newark.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, will publish a draft Bill in the summer which paves the way for a newly created electoral commission to clarify *the area.*

The Government stressed its determination to clear up the confusion, which sees candidates from all parties breach spending limits, just hours after the conclusion of the Fiona Jones saga.

Lord Justice Kennedy, sitting with Mr Justice Mitchell, declared that Mrs Jones was entitled to resume her seat weeks after her conviction for *election fraud at Nottingham* Crown Court.

Although the appeal court had already overturned her conviction and sentence of 100 hours' community service, the Speaker had asked the High Court to rule on whether the Representation of the People Act 1983 allowed Mrs Jones to return automatically to the Commons.

Following the verdict, Mrs Jones, 42, *a mother of two,* spoke briefly outside the court of the strain the case had imposed on her family, before returning to Westminster.

She said: "I am absolutely delighted. It has been a very stressful time for me and my family. I am looking forward to taking my seat back and representing the people of Newark."

Mr Straw's draft Bill, which will implement the Neill Commission's recommendations on party funding and conduct of elections, will go forward as *part of the Government's new* legislative programme later this year.

Ministers will look to the electoral commission to rewrite Schedule 3 of the Representation of the People Act which covers the cost of sending telegrams but not of using mobile phones, although it is unclear whether such a change would need primary legislation.

It will also clarify what is a declarable election expense, the grey area which led to Mrs Jones's conviction.

And it will also be instructed to take on an area not covered by Lord Neill and to spearhead a drive aimed at raising the low level of turnout in British elections by promoting a new spirit of civic duty.

Shortly after yesterday's verdict, Mrs Jones posed for photographers outside Westminster's St Stephen's entrance before being escorted into a largely-deserted chamber by Graham Allen, MP for Nottingham North and Labour's regional whip.

In court, Philip Sales, counsel for John Morris, the Attorney-General, said the Speaker and House of Commons authorities were "neutral" about whether quashing Mrs Jones's guilty verdict which cost her her seat allowed her to re-enter the Commons without a by-election. He said the House was seeking to have *parliamentary law clarified.*

Roy Amlot QC, appearing for Mrs Jones, argued that under the Representation of the People Act, any impediment to her return had been removed.

The final word in Mrs Jones's saga was greeted with relief by both parties, neither of which wanted to fight a by-election.

Although the Tories had already selected Richard Alexander, *the former MP beaten by* Mrs Jones in 1997 when she won a 3,000 majority, party officials were nervous about the effect of a poor showing on William Hague, the Tory leader.



Fiona Jones back at Parliament yesterday after being told she can resume her seat

'Right to roam' Bill meets new hurdle

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

Legislation giving ramblers a legal right to roam over four million acres of mountains, moors, heaths and downs has been delayed for at least a year because of pressure on the Government's programme.

John Prescott, the Environment *Secretary, has* been unable to secure a slot in the next parliamentary programme for the measure, which Labour promised in its election manifesto and which has been seen as a memorial to the late John Smith, the former party leader and a keen walker.

The measure seems to have been squeezed out of the list for the next Queen's Speech, discussed yesterday by the *Cabinet,* by a *measure that* will enable government advisers to take over further education colleges that are giving cause for concern.

But Mr Prescott has secured a promise that a draft Bill will be published during the next session, which is as close as he can get to a guarantee that the legislation will be contained in the 2000-2001 programme, possibly the last before the next election. *He has also won slots* for two substantial Bills *in the* next session — a transport Bill *to improve the running of* Britain's rail companies and extend the introduction of *road pricing schemes, and* a local government Bill *that* will allow councils across the country to follow the example of London and have elected mayors.

Booth charity involved in legal aid dispute

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE row over the Government's plans to shake up legal aid intensified yesterday as a charity backed by Cherie Booth, QC, said that battered *women could find it harder* to find emergency legal help.

Refuge, the domestic violence charity of which the Prime Minister's wife is a management council member, came out in support of the Law Society's advertising campaign opposing the proposals.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, has accused the society of "*propagating* untruths" and causing needless *concern among members of* the public. He says that legal aid will still be available for *victims of domestic violence* and that there will be "no shortage of quality-assured legal aid lawyers".

But yesterday Refuge said that it feared that women who needed urgent help could find it harder to obtain advice from a solicitor they trusted because the plans will restrict legal aid work to *firms awarded* contracts. Only firms reaching guaranteed quality standards *will win contracts.*

The charity says that some rural areas could be left with*out local solicitors' firms with* contracts and a victim's choice of lawyer would be reduced at a time when it was essential the victim trusted her solicitor.

It also raised fears that controls on the legal aid budget, now about £740 million a year, could mean that even women who qualified for legal aid were denied help if the pot ran dry.

A Law Society advertisement in *national newspapers* today says: "Her partner uses her as his personal punchbag. *Now the Government* is about to deliver another wounding blow."

☐ Labour backbench MPs are backing moves for reforms of the justice system including the abolition of wigs and the creation of a register of judges' interests.

Andrew Dismore, Labour MP for Hendon, has tabled amendments to Lord Irvine of Lairg's Access to Justice Bill *aimed at modernizing the justice* system.

He is calling for the abolition or overhaul of *the queen's* counsel system; a regiser of judges' interests; a judicial appointments commission; and modernization of court dress.

Mr Dismore, whose proposals are supported by many backbench Labour MPs, said yesterday: "This Bill provides the ideal opportunity to modernise other aspects of the justice system. Queen's counsel are an expensive anachronism *working in the interests of lawyers,* not the public. Radical reform is needed; otherwise, they should be abolished."

There also needed to be a more open system of appointing judges, through an Appointments commission.

Give away NHS, urges new book

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

RATIONING and scarcity are built into the National Health Service, turning it into the last failed nationalised industry, according to a book published today by the Intitute of Economic Affairs.

The right-wing think tank report says the NHS needs to be *denationalised and given to local communities* as charitable trusts along the lines of many hospitals in Europe.

The author, John Spiers, a former chairman of the Patients' Association, argues that this would transfer the responsibility for the renewal of assets from the public domain to *local ownership.* A framework of regulation for quality and service would ensure standards while the State's *role* would be restricted to protecting freedom of local choice.

Professor Spiers says with demand for care overwhelmingly overtaking supply, the advantages of a public sector monopoly are being outweighed by the disadvantages.

Leading article, page 27

'Bombers foiled by surveillance'

BY *MICHAEL HORSNELL*

AN IRISH republican terrorist plot to bomb London after the Good Friday Agreement was foiled by a huge surveillance operation, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

The security services and police recovered six incendiary devices, with which three men allegedly planned to blitz furniture and other stores, and a *2 lb Semtex bomb.*

As their moves were watched and recorded, one of the men unwittingly asked a surveillance officer for directions across London. In another twist, an undercover woman police officer rented a room in a flat where a suspect was staying.

Anthony Hyland, 26, Darren Mulholland, 20, and Liam Grogan, 22, all pleaded not *guilty to conspiracy to cause explosions.*

Nigel Sweeney, prosecuting, told the jury that the devices were covered in talcum powder and wrapped in clingfilm before being packed into Tuppaware boxes when they were brought by ferry into Britain from Dublin by Hyland.

Mulholland allegedly reconnoitred six furniture, bedding, carpet and curtain stores in the Fulham Broadway area.

Mr Sweeney told the jury: "You will want to consider why *he* paid *short* visits to these shops. Was it getting the feel for the city and the cost of living as he claimed? Or was he reconnoitring potential targets with plenty of combusti*ble material in which to place* incendiary bombs."

Mr Sweeney said: "In a curious twist Mulholland asked a person who he thought was a member of the public, but was in fact one of the police surveillance officers . . . for directions to Queens Park."

Mullholland and Hyland returned to Ireland but came back separately five days later. This time Grogan came too.

An undercover woman police officer using the name Nicola Walker had paid a £900 deposit *on the spare* room at the flat where Hyland was staying.

Using her key, police gained access and found the Semtex bomb. The three men were then arrested.

The case continues today.

Lords squabble over a point of grammar

BY *JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT*

TONY BLAIR, like all Prime *Ministers, knew that* one day he would face a Cabinet split. But not, surely, over grammar.

Yesterday the Cabinet took time out from discussing the latest *developments in* Kosovo to consider the vital issue of whether one should say "a" or "an" hereditary peerage.

While some ministers insisted it was "a", both Baroness Jay of Paddington, the Leader of the Lords, and Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, preferred "an".

The issue had been raised by Margaret Beckett, Leader of the Commons, to illustrate one of the ways in which peers were trying to delay the Lords reform Bill. She told *her colleagues how,* early on Wednesday, a Tory hereditary peer had tabled an *amendment* to the main clause of the Bill which says that "no-one shall be a *member of the House* of Lords by virtue of a hereditary peerage".

Earl *Ferrers insisted that* the collective noun to describe his tribe should be preceded by "an". *But Lord* Williams of Mostyn, the Home Office Minister, argued *that* previous Acts of Parliament referred to "a hereditary peerage". After seven minutes of erudite debate, almost a hundred peers voted and decided by a majority of 32 that it was "a hereditary peerage".

Mayfair loses its grip on lofty living

The latest des reses are now in consumerist Clerkenwell and commuter country, Rachel Kelly and Simon de Bruxelles report

FOR decades they have enjoyed the quiet certainty that they live in the country's most expensive des reses. But now the white-rinsed doyennes of Mayfair and Chelsea are being rudely knocked off their residential perches.

New money, new postcodes, it seems, as government figures reveal that today's buyers are prepared to pay more for loft-style pads in trendy Clerkenwell, London, or fancy purpose-built mansions in the leafy outskirts of Leatherhead, Surrey.

New figures from the Land Registry show that the country's fourth most expensive postcode is Clerkenwell, where the average price paid for a house last year was £464,166 and residents include footballers and television presenters.

Britain's most expensive address outside the capital is a tiny "golden triangle" in the West Country. The average price of a property in the unspoilt greenbelt villages just northwest of Bath was £461,666 last year. The BA19 postal area is close to the M4 and the mainline rail link to the capital.

The most expensive of the suburbs is Leatherhead, which finished eighth. A house in this leafy commuting country would set you back an average of £438,519. Park Lane now languishes in tenth place, with houses costing £407,841, while Chelsea is the ninth most expensive, with houses at £423,540.

Only the residents of Knightsbridge can relax as usual: SW7 is the most expensive post-code of all, with houses costing £530,484. Its is followed by an area dubbed "Brompton": streets such as Cadogan Place, Cadogan Square and Lowndes Square.

Simon Agace, from the agents Winkworth, said: "A different sort of money is buying in Clerkenwell. Typically, a buyer will be a city broker, who is single, mid-thirties, who isn't interested in having a family and has plenty of prime time to go to restaurants and bars. Many buyers are single professional women.

The hallmark of Clerkenwell is lofts — large industrial spaces converted into airy open-planned wooden floored temples to consumerism.

The area to the north of the City has seen factories, warehouses and engineering plants converted by developers such as the Manhattan Loft Corporation and Berkeley Homes.

Leatherhead, best known for being the first target of extra-terrestrial invaders in H.G. Wells's *War of the Worlds*, is Britain's most expensive suburb.

Willie Gething, of the buyers' agents Property Vision said: "It's pure commuting country," he said. "There are likely to have been one or two very expensive, one-off, possibly newly built houses which would have brought the average up."

> 'There are many more people coming down the M4 today'

Michael Caine bought a house near Leatherhead recently and the tennis player Jeremy Bates also lives there. Mr Agace said: "You might fight someone who is chief executive of an insurance business, or someone who can set up and office from home to run their own IT or Internet business. And there are plenty of Americans who will pay good money to be near the American school in Cobham."

The magic BA19 postcode stretches two miles to the north west of Bath into the southern fringes of the Cotswolds. It includes the villages of North Stoke, Lansdown, Charlcombe, Weston, Hamswell, Lower Hamswell, Woolley, Kelston, Kelston Mills and Langridge.

According to the estate agents, it is commuters keen to escape from London who have been pushing up prices. Paddy Stewart-Morgan, a partner with the estate agents Cluttons Daniel Smith, said: "Anywhere close to the M4 and the mainline station at Chippenham will command a premium but this area is particularly popular.

"It is probably one of the least densely populated parts of the west country and there are not many houses there so when one does come up competition is intense. The average price has been bumped up by the fact that of the handful of houses which are sold each year most are large rural properties with land.

There are many more people coming down the M4 than two or three years ago. They are looking for a better quality of life and it is far easier now to work two or three days a week from home."

Any substantial family home in the most sought-after villages will sell for more than £500,000, often within days. Prices have risen by 10 to 20 per cent in the last six months and show no sign of slowing down. The rise is being fuelled by low interest rates, the amount of "idle" money sitting around in deposit accounts and an exodus of formerly young professionals with growing families.

Michael Hughes, the managing director of the estate agents Pritchard and Partners, said: "The demand and influence of London buyers has really boosted the market. Londoners are realising it is easy to commute."

Firms are moving staff to the area between Swindon, Bristol and Gloucester, causing a demand for homes.

Last week Mr Hughes put a detached, five-bed, early-18th Century farmhouse at Woolley on the market for £750,000 and expects it to sell within days. Last month his firm sold a £450,000 house with self-contained flat in Lansdowne for the asking price in two days.

"Money is so cheap to borrow at the moment there has never been a better time to buy and people are taking advantage of it. Bath is cheaper and safer than most places in London and lots of people are buying second homes here.

"There is a lot of growth in this area, particularly Swindon, but people would rather live in Bath and commute."

Paul Jarman, Chairman of the Bath Auctioneers' and Estate Agents' Society, said: "We sold three properties in that area last year that each fetched either just above or below £1 million.

"We have one £700,000 property in another village near Bath, which has just gone on the market but we already have two people willing to pay in excess of the asking price.

"For homeowners the property boom is good news."

The boom, however, is pricing local house-hunters out of the market. Estate agent Peter Weeks, an associate partner for Davis, Meade and Partners, said: "Bath is a very sought-after location at the moment because it is a beautiful place to live.

"The city does not really have any suburbs so you can live just a few miles outside the centre and be in the middle of the country. The majority of people are not buying them as second homes but coming to live here and commute to wherever they are going.

"There are even enquiries from overseas and it just shows how healthy the market is, but it will undoubtedly have an effect on first-time buyers."

The boom is not just confined to Bath. Estate agents all over the West Country are reporting Eighties-style price rises. The prices of some properties in Bristol have leapt 15 per cent since Christmas as wealthy businessmen buy up properties to rent.

Howard Davis, area manager of estate agents C. J. Hole, said: "Since Christmas it has gone really crazy.

"Interest rates have gone down and a lot of people are relocating to the area on contract.

"There is a shortage of property on the market and demand is outstripping supply. Properties are even traded without hitting the market — we can sell in a day."

BRITAIN'S MOST EXPENSIVE ADDRESSES

Annual average prices by postcode. Source: Land Registry

	Postcode	Area	Price
1	SW7 1	Knightsbridge	£530.484
2	SW1X 9	Brompton	£496,726
3	SW1X 7	Knightsbridge	£488,300
4	WC1N 2	Clerkenwell	£464,166
5	BA1 9	Bath	£461.666
6	W1Y 5	Mayfair	£456,176
7	SW1X 8	Belgravia	£446,176
8	KT22 0	Leatherhead	£438,519
9	SW3 4	Chelsea	£423,540
10	W1Y 3	Park Lane	£407,841

Regent's Park
half mile
ST PANCRAS
MAYFAIR
Hyde Park
Knightsbridge
Eaton Place
Sloane Street
Victoria Station
CHELSEA
Sloane Square

CLERKENWELL

Ten years ago, Clerkenwell was full of boarded up industrial buildings, deserted by the printers and watchmakers who once worked there. Now the area is buzzing with warehouse conversions, where the young and single enjoy high ceilings, stripped wood floors, and lateral living. Famous residents include footballer Clive Sinclair, television presenter Angus Deayton, and Goldman Sachs economist Gavyn Davis. Winkworth is selling a two bedroom, two bathroom flat at the New Riverhead development in nearby **Rosebery Avenue**, for £465,000.

Landsdown Place East is a typical Georgian Bath townhouse that recently sold for £450,000. Famed for its Georgian architecture and Roman baths and other remains, residents of Bath and its environs include entrepreneur James Dyson, pop-star Peter Gabriel, Roger Cook and broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby. New buyers seek period properties in the villages outside the city, while others seeking a pleasant retirement prefer converted flats in the town centre.

LEATHERHEAD

Leatherhead is a typical, average suburban town which has been spoilt by a modern car park in the town centre and an inner ring road system. One agent described the town as "very Surrey, very stockbroker."
Famous residents of the area include Michael Caine and Jeremy Bates. Hamptons International are selling this house in nearby **Shamley Green** for around £410,000.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

No 5 Rutland Gate, Knightsbridge, is a two bedroom cottage within walking distance of Hyde Park and Harrods. The house has an en suite shower room and bathroom with a small patio and use of a communal garden. Agents Cluttons Daniel Smith are selling the house for £495,000. Residents of the white-stucco streets of late Victorian houses in Knightsbridge famed for its shopping at Harrods and Harvey Nichols include the IT girl Tara Palmer-Tompkinson and Lord Carrington.

Party animals ruin a father's weekend

By Helen Johnstone

A COUNCIL leader who took a weekend break at a health farm to fight stress returned to find his home wrecked by revellers at his teenaged daughter's birthday party.

Paul Bettison found blood smeared on the walls of his £300,000 detached home in the Berkshire village of Little Sandhurst, the aftermath of several fights. The carpets were covered in cigarette burns and the front door had been broken down with an iron bar.

He later discovered that a sleep-over for a handful of close friends of his daughter, Clare, 15, had descended into chaos after one made a public announcement over a loudspeaker at an ice rink.

Mr Bettison, the Conservative leader of Bracknell Forest Council, said yesterday: "She announced there was an open house and that everyone was welcome, before giving our address. This girl, who I believe is 16 today, had also put up a poster at the ice rink to the same effect and leaflets were distributed as far afield as Reading, 20 miles away.

"The result was 300 people turned up from all over Berkshire. Every school in our borough was represented. They were mixed in age from 14 to 20."

Mr Bettison said he had not spoken to the un-named girl's parents since the incident last weekend. "I will be leaving that to my solicitor and the police."

Police with sniffer dogs are expected to search the house for drugs at his request after he learned that Ecstasy and cannabis had been sold.

Mr Bettison, 46, and his wife, Jean, had left Clare and her younger sister, Emily, 14, at their home while they went to a Hampshire health farm. He said: "My daughter was terrified for both her and her friends' safety, not to mention the fear of what I would do."

A social desert for It Girl Tara

From Giles Whittell in Los Angeles

THE Meadows clinic may come as a rude shock to an "It Girl". Hundreds of miles from the nearest concentration of nightclubs, it is an austere, refurbished ranch with an unheated pool and a clientele of rich but penitent addicts.

Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, who has reportedly checked in there to "slow down" after years on the European party circuit, would fit in nicely, but only if she was not bothered by teams of psychiatrists and strict ten-minute limits on her telephone calls.

Fifty miles northwest of Phoenix in the Arizona desert, The Meadows treats alcoholics, drug and sex addicts, victims of eating disorders and the elite of dependency-sufferers, those with "addiction interaction". It is unclear to which category Miss Palmer-Tomkinson belongs. John Nye, the clinic's spokesman, said yesterday that "patient confidentiality is taken very seriously here. It's a matter of federal law." Officials would not even confirm that the lissome night-owl and *Sunday Times Magazine* columnist had arrived.



Palmer-Tomkinson: stay could cost $1,000 a day

By coincidence, however, a glimpse of the sex addiction treatment regime at the clinic is revealed in a 6,000-word cover story in next month's *Fortune* magazine. "Most of my patients are chief executives, or doctors or attorneys or priests," says Patrick Carnes, the centre's director of sexual disorder services. "We have corporate America's leadership marching through here, and they are paying cash because they don't want anybody to know."

The clinic also treats American sports stars in droves, and occasional foreign celebrities and socialites: Miss Palmer-Tomkinson is following in the footsteps of, among others, Cosima Somerset, a former friend of Diana, Princess of Wales, treated for depression in 1997. Treatment costs $900 to $1000 (£560 to £625) a day.

Scrap dealer denies killing

By Richard Duce

A SCRAP metal dealer yesterday denied a dramatic court room accusation that he killed his millionaire father-in-law's common-law wife.

Michael Fitzpatrick, 37, is alleged to have been the go-between in finding Derek Goldsmith a hitman to murder Diana Goldsmith because he wanted custody of their two children. But at Maidstone Crown Court yesterday, Fitzpatrick, who has a record of violent crime, was accused of instigating the plan to abduct Mrs Goldsmith and to scare her into abandoning the children.

Timothy Langdale, QC, defending Mr Goldsmith on charges of murder and conspiracy to murder, said Fitzpatrick knew he could ingratiate himself with his father-in-law if Mrs Goldsmith could be persuaded to disappear.

It was put to Fitzpatrick directly: "The plan to abduct Diana, to warn her and scare her off went wrong because you killed her." Fitzpatrick replied: "No I did not. I have got nothing from her death. I had everything and now I have lost it."

The court has been told that Mrs Goldsmith, 44, was abducted from her home in Sevenoaks by two men, Ian Colligan and Michael Danaher, in January 1995. She was never seen alive again and her body was found two years later buried in a garden in Bromley, southeast London.

Mr Langdale told Fitzpatrick: "The truth is that after Diana Goldsmith was taken from her home by Colligan and Danaher you saw her and lost it. You caused her death by going too far in her scaring."

Fitzpatrick denied the claim and in his evidence yesterday said it was Mr Goldsmith who had come to him to try to find a hitman. He said he had put him in touch with Colligan. Mr Langdale said it was fortunate for Fitzpatrick that Colligan was now dead and could not offer contradictory evidence.

Fitzpatrick has admitted conspiracy to murder and is a key witness for the prosecution. He is married to Mr Goldsmith's daughter from a previous marriage. At one point he said: "You can make me out to be a scumbag as much as you want but you can't change the facts of this case."

It is alleged that Mr Goldsmith, 62, from Edenbridge, Kent, paid Colligan £20,000 to murder Mrs Goldsmith as part of a "calculated and wicked" plot to get custody of his children, aged seven and 12.

The trial conrinues.

Barbecue battle losers left fuming

By Robin Young

A SIX-YEAR battle between neighbours over a barbecue has left the losers with a £12,000 legal bill — and no prospect of relief from cooking smells.

Esther and Paul Harris, both 70, claimed that smoke from their neighbour's barbecue filled every room of their £700,000 home in Little Venice, West London. The couple told a hearing at the Central London County Court that, at the height of summer, they were repeatedly forced to close every window in their four-storey house to keep out the smoke from Mike Ross's barbecue.

They retaliated by leaving a radio playing loudly next to his balcony and once turned a garden hose on his barbecue.

Yesterday, however, they withdrew their case against Mr Ross after Judge Simon Goldstein had intimated that they were going to lose and suggested they might like to save further legal costs.

Mr Ross, 60, an American, started using the barbecue on the balcony of his first-floor flat, less than three metres from his neighbours' windows, in 1993.

Mr Harris told the court: "After the first occasion I went to see Mr Ross and said it was not really sociable behaviour to fill our house with smoke. I said: 'Whatever you are cooking, cook it in the kitchen. That's the proper place.'" Despite continued protests, Mr Ross, an artist, continued using his barbecue. Environmental health officers had told him he was free to continue.

Judge Goldstein, when shown a picture of the lit barbecue by Mr Harris, asked: "Why can't I see any smoke in the picture? All I can see is a tiny, and I mean really tiny, puff of smoke." Mr Harris replied: "This is one of the mysteries. It fills our house, but when you look at it, it does not seem very smoky."

After the court was told that the Harrises had made exaggerated claims about the barbecue in the past, Judge Goldstein urged Mrs Harris, who was representing herself, to drop the case. If she lost, the costs would be high, he told her.

Speaking after the hearing, Mrs Harris, a retired teacher, said: "As far as Mr Ross is concerned, we are the neighbours from hell. But we only wanted to stop the smoke from filling our home."

Mr Ross indicated after the hearing that he was keen to seek a truce, though he would definitely be barbecuing again this summer. However, he had yet to decide whether to invite the Harrises.

BBC security is tightened after death threat

Staff are given checklist of safety-first procedures, reports Carol Midgeley

BBC staff were issued with a four-point safety plan yesterday as Tony Hall, the chief executive of BBC News, remained under police protection after receiving a death threat from a caller claiming to be a Serb activist.

Eddie Halling, a former detective superintendent who is now the BBC's chief of security, urged presenters to beware of phone calls and letters from alleged fans. He also ordered a tightening of security measures at all BBC buildings.

Mr Halling said that any suspicious incidents should be reported and he offered guidance via the BBC's in-house magazine, *Ariel*.

Mr Hall and his family were moved to a safe house after a telephone caller said that the murder of the BBC presenter Jill Dando had been to avenge Nato's bombing of a Belgrade television station, and that he was next on the list.

Mr Halling said that threatening mail and calls were often received by radio and television presenters and should be taken seriously. "A lot of it is of no more than nuisance value but occasionally a case crops up that goes beyond that."

He has advised all BBC staff to report immediately any suspicious incidents, including unsolicited phone calls, letters or other unwelcome communication purporting to come from an admirer. Staff should also report any suspicions that they are being followed. They should not answer the door at home unless they can identify the visitor. They should keep any written or taped messages, and take a note of the description of anyone behaving suspiciously, and any other relevant details such as car registration numbers.

A BBC spokesman said that security arrangements were being reviewed on a daily basis. Extra security staff had been drafted in to patrol the corporation's buildings.

The spokesman added: "We are reviewing physical security arrangements but we have also advised staff on care and cautions with regard to their personal security."

☐ The BBC announced yesterday that it is dropping the new television series featuring Jill Dando, the first programme of which was screened on the day before she was killed.

The decision to cancel *Antiques Inspectors*, in which Miss Dando accompanied experts from the *Antiques Roadshow* in rummaging through the contents of volunteers' lofts and garages, is believed to have been made after consultations between the BBC and her family.

A second programme had already been made and was due to be shown this Sunday evening, but it will be replaced by an edition of *Antiques Roadshow*. A BBC spokeswoman said: "I don't think we have any plans to show them at a later date."

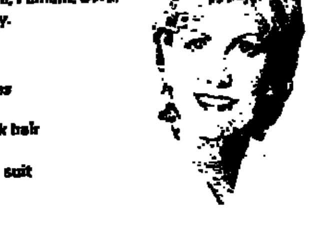
POLICE APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE

MURDER

At about 11.30am on Monday, 26th April 1999, television presenter Jill Dando was shot outside her home at 29 Gowan Avenue, Fulham, SW6.
A man was seen running away.

He is described as:

- White
- Aged late thirties to forties
- 5'9" to 6' tall
- Short dark-brown or black hair
- Clean shaven
- Smartly dressed in a dark suit or jacket and trousers
- Possibly wearing black, thick-rimmed glasses.



Do you recognise the description of this man ?

Were you in the Gowan Avenue/ Fulham Palace Road / Bishops Park Road area on that Monday morning ?

Did you see the shooting or anything that could help ?

Please contact the Incident Room at KENSINGTON POLICE STATION on

Tel. 0181 246 0732

or if you don't want to give your name, ring Crimestoppers on
0800 555 111

A poster appeal from police hunting Jill Dando's killer

Serbian exiles reject link to Dando murder

By Michael Harvey

SERB community leaders yesterday dismissed as "utter rubbish" the idea that Serb death threats had been made against Tony Hall, BBC News chief executive, or that a Serb gunman murdered Jill Dando.

They conceded it was possible that a Serb nationalist fanatic could harbour a grudge against the BBC over its coverage of the Kosovo conflict, but they could not conceive that it could be taken as far as the murder of the *Crimewatch* presenter.

Jovan Ratkovic, press officer for the Serbian Information Centre, said: "The Serb community is well educated and well connected and we would have heard at least rumours if anyone was planning such attacks.

"It makes no sense at all to kill someone like Jill Dando. There are more important figures whom we could hate, but we want a peaceful solution. There are fanatics in our community, as in every community, but attacking journalists is unthinkable."

In Whitehall a hardy band of Serbs continued their protests against Nato airstrikes. The demonstrators' placards spelt out their anger against the perceived bias of the BBC with slogans such as "Nato lies, the BBC complies" and "BBC stop glorifying illegal war".

The organiser, Draza Radojkovic, 36, of the British-Serbian Alliance for Peace, said: "To claim Serbs are responsible for these death threats is wrong. It must be a hoax."

Serb nationalists in Britain have been kept under heightened surveillance by the security services since the start of the Kosovo conflict, but Home Office sources confirmed that MI5 and Special Branch were not aware of any Serb terrorist cells operating in Britain. More than 50,000 Serbs live in Britain.

War coverage, pages 18-20

Patient's dying pain haunted GP for life

By Paul Wilkinson, North East Correspondent

A FAMILY doctor accused of killing of a cancer patient told a court yesterday of the moment when, as a young doctor, he believed that he had let a dying woman down by failing to stop her pain.

David Moor, who denies murdering George Liddell with a lethal injection in July last year, said: "I had an appalling experience in 1976 with an elderly woman who was dying from cancer of the ovaries. She was in anguish and distress and I promised to relieve her suffering and gave her an injection of morphine.

"The next day I went to see her and she was in extreme pain. She stared me in the face and said: 'You promised me I would be free from pain.' I failed her — it was the most agonising moment of my medical career."

Dr Moor, 52, from Stamfordham, Northumberland, told Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court that he had promised Mr Liddell, an 85-year-old retired ambulanceman, that he would relieve his pain. "When I first met George Liddell he was wasted, weak, frail and had given up the will to live.

"I vividly remember sitting by his bed with my hand on his knee, saying: 'What do you want me to do for you?' He asked me to get rid of the pain and I told him I could promise him that."

Asked by Anthony Arlidge, his defence barrister, if he set out to kill the pensioner "willy-nilly", he replied: "I never set out to kill anyone willy-nilly. But I have certainly set out to ease the discomfort and distress of my patients and give them a pain-free death. But I never set out to kill anyone."

Dr Moor, who has retired from his inner-city surgery in Fenham, Newcastle, since Mr Liddell's death, is accused of helping his cancer patient to die by giving him three lethal morphine injections.

A Home Office pathologist told the trial last week that he believed Mr Liddell was not terminally ill. But Dr Moor said yesterday that he had no doubt that his patient did not have long to live. "With hindsight, it may be I was wrong in this supposition, but when I saw him I believed he had progressive cancer ... I had no doubt in my mind he was going to die."

The case continues.

Open-heart surgery on pub floor saves stabbing victim

Doctor cut man open with scissors as customers discussed football, writes Adam Fresco

A DOCTOR brought the victim of a stabbing back to life by performing open-heart surgery on the floor of a public house, it was disclosed yesterday. It is believed to be only the fourth time that a patient anywhere has survived the operation *outside a hospital.*

When Dr Heather Clark, who was still being supervised just weeks into her new job, saw Stephen Niland, 22, lying unconscious on the floor of the pub after being stabbed in the heart she knew there was only one chance of saving his life.

Without time to get the proper surgical equipment, she used a pair of scissors to cut across his ribcage and through his breastbone so that she could work on the exposed heart. She had only a few minutes before the lack of oxygen caused brain damage.

It was a procedure she had never carried out before, but *by chance had seen it per*formed two days earlier in the back of an ambulance. Mr Niland is only the third person to survive such an operation without brain damage.

When the first ambulance crew reached the scene, at The Swan in Stratford, east London, *they put out a call to the* helicopter emergency medical *team* based at The London Hospital.

Although the team had finished an hour earlier, two members were still talking about the work they had done that day and, despite not getting any overtime, agreed to drive to the scene to see if they could help.

When Dr Clark, 35, an accident and emergency registrar, arrived, Mr Niland did not have a pulse and was technically dead. A ventilator was fitted and, thinking that the stab wound may have perforated the heart, she cut two holes in *his chest to relieve the pres*sure on his lungs.

Mr Niland was anaesthetised and Dr Clark performed a thoracotomy with stunned drinkers and emergency workers standing around. She cut across Mr Niland's chest from one side while a colleague, Dr Alistair Mulcahy, started from the other.

Once Dr Clark had cut through the breastbone, she lifted up the ribcage, known as the clam shell procedure, and exposed the heart.

With time running out, she knew that she had to cut the *pericardium,* the sack surrounding the heart. It had filled with blood and was putting pressure on the heart, stopping it from beating.

As the blood spurted out, the heart started beating again and Dr Mulcahy stuck his finger in the hole that was more than an inch deep and stayed that way for an hour all the way to the hospital and then while surgeons repaired the damage.

After returning from another life-saving helicopter journey yesterday *Dr Clark, said:* "I knew it was the only way this patient was going to survive. I remember half way through looking up at the people gathered there and thinking 'Oh my God'. There was blood all over the floor and I could hear people discussing football, but your focus is on the patient, so I didn't really notice them.

"When we arrived, the pati*ent was on the* floor and looked pretty sick and was not moving. We controlled the breathing and started to ventilate him. He did not have a pulse and I began cutting and got about half way and real*ised it was going to be tough* work and I was not going to do it in time, so Alistair started on the other side."

Before joining the helicopter team for six months, Dr Clark had worked in A&E for ten years, but had never had to do anything like that operation before. She is also a trained ballet dancer who has appeared on a television advertisement and also won the 1998 UK Modern Jive Championship. She trained at the Westbury School of Dancing in Bristol, and dances professionally.

Since the life-saving surgery two weeks ago, Mr Niland has been returned home after receiving 70 stitches. He was visited last week by Dr Clark, who said: "I could not stop staring at him. It is lovely to be able to save someone's life."

SAVING A LIFE ON A PUB FLOOR

Cartoid artery
Oesophagus
1. Doctor arrives to discover man dying from stab wound, and realises that she has only minutes to save his life
2. Patient's chest is cut open to gain access to rib cage
3. Sternum is sawn through and ribcage is opened (known as the "clam shell" procedure)
4. Sack surrounding heart is cut open, releasing blood clot
5. Heart starts beating
6. Doctor's colleague stops one inch deep stab wound in heart with his finger whilst patient is taken to hospital

Sternum
Heart
Rib
Diaphragm



TONY SAPIANO

Dr Heather Clark with her patient, Stephen Niland, who is now back at home

How 'dead' man was revived

MEDICAL BRIEFING

HEATHER CLARK, the Royal London Hospital registrar with their helicopter emergency service, is a remarkably resourceful surgeon. She is also brave to undertake a thoracotomy on a pub floor in order to relieve cardiac tamponade, the compression of the heart caused by bleeding into the pericardial sac, in which the heart lies.

After a stabbing, as the sac fills with blood, the movement of the heart is restricted and its output progressively reduced. As the cardiac shock, reduction in the heart's pumping facility and the fall in blood pressure increase, so does the patient become increasingly close to death.

In Stephen Niland's case, his heart had already stopped beating. After Dr Clark had opened up his chest and evacuated the clotting blood from the pericardial sac, his heart was able to beat again and the circulation was restored before the brain was damaged.

Dr Clark's colleague, Dr Alistair Mulcahy, put his finger into the hole in the heart muscle made by the stab wound and staunched the flow of blood, and patient and doctors were transported to the Royal London where the cardiac wound could be stitched and the chest closed.

Cardio-thoracic surgery is a highly technical subject. Usually in attendance in the operating theatre with the thoracic surgical team are skilled anaesthetists, a cardiologist and a well drilled and knowledgeable team of theatre nurses and technicians.

Mr Niland undoubtedly owes his life, and the preservation of his intellect, not only to Dr Clark's and Dr Mulcahy's quick thinking, but also to their professional boldness and skill.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD



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And now for the sunburn forecast . . .

Daily UV radiation index will help to protect sunbathers against skin cancer, reports Ian Murray

THE complexion of weather maps will change from tomorrow, when they will carry an ultraviolet radiation forecast to show how dangerous the sun's rays will be for different skin types.

The Solar UV Index rating, which will appear on television and newspaper maps, is a new weapon in the fight against skin cancer. The incidence of skin cancer in Britain has doubled to 40,000 a year since the early 1980s, and it now kills 2,000 people annually. Such cancers are largely caused by overexposure to UV radiation and is preventable if people protect themselves from it.

> **LINKS**
> www.met-office.gov.uk/ecg/uv/uvindex.html Clear-sky and cloud-modified UV forecasts for Britain and Ireland

The new index rating, which was developed by the World Health Organisation, rates the strength of UV radiation on a scale of one to 20. Using the forecast figure, people can work out their personal risk and take appropriate measures to protect themselves.

UV figures will be given for four skin colour categories: white skin that burns easily and tends not to tan; white skin that tans easily; brown skin; and black skin. Anyone unsure of their correct category should always opt for the paler one. The UV rating depends on several factors, including the time of year, the time of day, the latitude, the thickness of the ozone layer, the amount of cloud cover, pollution levels and the degree of reflected light.

Although the top of the index is 20, the rating is unlikely ever to exceed eight in Britain or ten around the Mediterranean. Once the index goes above ten, even those with the darkest skin are at high risk. Levels of 18 are rare, found mainly near the Equator in pollution-free areas such as northern Australia.

The forecasts for Britain will be compiled by six monitoring stations located at intervals of two degrees of latitude, from Camborne, Cornwall, to Lerwick in the Shetland Islands, with the help of the National Radiological Protection Board. The regional forecasts will be accurate to within 40 miles.

The effects of cloud cover will be a difficult but important factor to predict. High cloud has negligible effect and white, fluffy clouds can actually increase radiation levels by reflecting sunlight. Fifty per cent cloud cover can reduce UV radiation to about 70 per cent, while thick clouds covering the entire sky still allow 30 per cent through.

An index figure of one or two means that there is no risk of harm from the sun. Once it reaches three, those with skin that burns easily are at medium risk, meaning they should avoid being in direct sunlight for more than two hours.

At a figure of five, those with the most sensitive skins are at high risk, which means that they can burn in 30 minutes to an hour and should try to keep out of direct sunlight and use a sunscreen of at least factor 15. At this level those who tan easily are at medium risk and should take precautions.

A figure of six means that the fairest skin group are at very high risk and can burn severely within 20 minutes. They should avoid all direct sunlight and put on factor-15 sunscreen.

Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, said that the index was an important tool in the drive to cut the number of preventable cancer deaths. "Part of the job of saving those lives is increasing the understanding of the risks involved in exposure to the sun, especially to children and young girls," she said.

"What 17-year-old doesn't think she looks more attractive with a tan than without? Our aim is that this index becomes part of our everyday lives."

The index will be broadcast daily, published in newspapers and available on the Internet.

PAT HANNAGAN



Mia Ekelund, top, and Carina Persson enjoy the London sun yesterday. The UV index will determine people's level of risk by their skin type

Calf death 'points to cloning dangers'

By Our Medical Correspondent

THE early death of a cloned calf with heart and blood defects stands as warning of possible risks in human cloning, says a biologist.

The calf was cloned from the cells of a cow that was itself a clone. The French biologist and his fellow researchers suspect that the cloning process interfered with genetic reprogramming and prevented normal development.

This suggests that defective gene regulation can be transmitted to offspring "and should be taken into account in debates on the effective application of cloning to human beings", Jean-Paul Renard writes in *The Lancet* today.

The calf was cloned from a cell taken from the cow's ear. Immediately after birth an echocardiograph showed the calf's heart had an enlarged right ventricle that required treatment with blood-pressure drugs and diuretics.

Within a month the calf's lymphocytes — white cells involved in the body's immune system — and its red blood cells began to decrease dramatically in number. Iron supplements made no difference and, 51 days after its birth, the calf died of severe anaemia.

Contraceptive implant withdrawn from market

By Ian Murray

A CONTRACEPTIVE implant that prevents pregnancy for five years is to be withdrawn because women have lost confidence in it and GPs refuse to insert it.

The decision dismayed the Family Planning Association, which said that Norplant was a valuable addition to the range of contraceptives.

More than 50,000 women in the UK received the implant, hailed as the near-perfect contraceptive when launched here in 1993. But the distributor, Hoechst Marion Roussel, said yesterday that declining demand had made Norplant commercially unviable.

The company blamed the decision on the publicity generated by legal action by women who claimed they had suffered serious side effects. More than 400 joined the Norplant Action Group, complaining of problems including constant menstruation, hair loss and mood swings. A test case on behalf of nearly 300 women was abandoned in February when legal aid was withdrawn.

> **PILL'S BENEFIT**
> **Taking the Pill can reduce the risk of women having hip fractures in later life by 25 per cent, according to research carried out in Sweden. A Pill with a high level of oestrogen cuts the risk by up to 44 per cent. The researchers say in *The Lancet* that the oestrogen in the Pill makes bones stronger and denser.**

Demand for Norplant also declined because of a dispute between the Government and the British Medical Association over how much GPs should be paid to insert the matchstick-size hormone rods under the skin of the arm. The Government refused demands for an extra payment, and the BMA advised GPs not to give the implant to new patients

Hoechst Marion Roussel said: "The combined effect has been to reduce demand for Norplant to levels that are no longer commercially viable. This was a commercial decision and confidence in the safety and effectiveness of Norplant remains unchanged."

Tom Belfield of the Family Planning Association said: "It has always been the view of the association that Norplant is safe and effective and that it is a vital addition to the choice of contraceptives available."

Paul Balen, the solicitor who co-ordinated the litigation, said Norplant was an effective contraceptive but some users had suffered genuine problems because of it.

Norplant will be withdrawn in October, but it will be available for five years to women who already have the implant and wish to have it renewed. Other implants are available.

Subsidy cut drives up private school elitism

Fewer pupils leave state sector as assisted places end and university fees rise, writes **John O'Leary**

INDEPENDENT schools have become more elitist since the first government-funded assisted places disappeared, head teachers said yesterday.

The annual census of 1,300 independent schools showed that 31 per cent of new entrants came from state schools, compared with 34 per cent in 1997. Leaders of the main independent education associations said they were worried that their schools would become more socially exclusive as the scheme was phased out.

Middle-income parents are already struggling to pay fee rises averaging twice the rate of inflation. A steady flow of teenagers from the state sector into independent school sixth-forms has dried up as parents save for university fees.

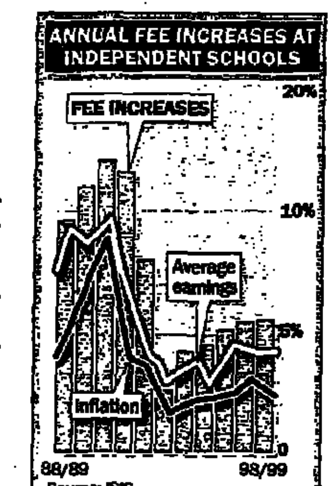
The census, carried out by the Independent Schools Information Service (Isis) in January, showed pupil numbers up by 0.7 per cent, the smallest rise for three years. The increase was confined to younger pupils, while secondary school numbers dropped.

Boarding continued its long-term decline, with 4.3 per cent fewer pupils. But the 1.7 per cent increase in day pupils included almost 14,000 who took advantage of "flexi-boarding" to spend eight or more nights at school during the year. A separate survey of schools in the Assisted Places Scheme, which is being phased out, showed the number of government-sponsored pupils dropping by 7,787. But new scholarship funds and the recruitment of those paying full fees meant that the schools' total numbers dropped by fewer than 2,000.

David Woodhead, the national director of Isis, said three conclusions could be drawn. "One is that the schools are proving very resilient in the face of this major change. The second is that the schools are themselves providing help to many more pupils.

"The third, however, is more disturbing. There is already a measurable shift in the intake to schools with remaining assisted places, away from pupils entering from state schools." Mr Woodhead added: "Over time, this may well result in an unwelcome change in the overall social and economic background of pupils in those schools."

When Labour confirmed a decision to phase out assisted places as one of its first acts in government, independent schools said they were likely to become more socially exclusive. Campaigners warned of dire financial consequences for some schools. However, head teachers said yesterday that most schools were adapting to the change and parents had shown themselves prepared to subsidise more places to maintain a social mix.



James Sabben-Clare, the Head Master of Winchester College and chairman of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, said: "In some schools it has been made clear to parents that, because of the loss of assisted places, those who are able to do so will be asked to contribute a little more."

The proportion of pupils receiving help from their schools rose by 7.5 per cent, counterbalancing the loss of state subsidy, and stands at a record 20 per cent.

The census, which covers 80 per cent of independent school pupils, showed fees rising by 5.7 per cent in 1998. David Williamson, who chairs the Independent Schools Bursars' Association, said the scale of the increase was mainly because of a 5 per cent increase in staff costs, although the schools had also spent a record £315 million on buildings and equipment.

Mr Williamson said fees were likely to rise by a similar amount this year. "No head or bursar rejoices in fee rises twice the rate of inflation, but this is the wrong benchmark. We are very sensitive to the marketplace in which we operate and very sensitive to the issue of our affordability in the long term."

One blow was a 2.7 per cent decline in sixth-form enrolments, reflecting a small drop in overseas recruits and the knock-on effects of lower numbers of entrants to senior schools earlier in the decade.

Rosanne Musgrave, the Headmistress of Blackheath High School, South London, and president of the Girls' Schools Association, said the introduction of university tuition fees had also had an effect. "For some parents, prudent planning means remaining in the state sector rather than paying fees for two years before university."

Overall pupil numbers increased for the fourth successive year, by 3,400 to 481,321. The strongest growth continued in the youngest age ranges.

Education, page 49

RICHARD LEA-HAIR



MRM's token collating staff have been rushed off their feet by the success of the Free Books For Schools scheme



Token handlers booked up for last-minute rush

TODAY sees the last appearance of *The Times* Free Books For Schools tokens, but behind the scenes the work will go on for several frantic weeks (*Hannah Betts writes*).

At the tokens handling house, MRM, in Leicestershire, more than a million tokens arrive daily to be exchanged for free new books.

Workers expect a fresh deluge from schools when tokens stop appearing in *The Times*, other News International papers and on packs of Walkers snackfoods. Marion Seeney, who manages Free Books For Schools Fulfilment, said: "The incredible success of the scheme has taken us all by surprise.

"I don't think anyone predicted how amazingly popular it would be. It has completely taken over the country's schools."

Some days Ms Seeney can get away with assigning ten workers to the project, but numbers can run as high as 40 — a quarter of MRM's workforce.

Their hard work has more than been made up for by the personal rewards of the scheme. Not only does MRM have the satisfaction of bringing more books into classrooms, it has also been flooded with thank you letters and drawings from children across Britain.

Tokens can be redeemed until July 20, but Ms Seeney and her colleagues are encouraging schools to send them in well in advance.

For inquiries, call the Free Books For Schools helpline on 0845 6040312.

Final token, page 30

UCAS accused over student numbers 'spin'

BY HANNAH BETTS

THE head of the university admissions service was yesterday accused of "spin-doctoring" for the Government by making applications sound more buoyant than they are.

Phil Willis, Liberal Democrat spokesman for higher education, has written to Tony Higgins complaining that his organisation is helping the Government to smooth the introduction of tuition fees. Many educationalists, including Dr Higgins, predicted that fees would produce a reduction in university applications.

Recent press releases from the University and Colleges Admissions Service have boasted an increase, in spite of largely static figures and pockets of significant slump in key areas, such as applications from mature students and for universities in the North West.

Mr Willis said: "UCAS was set up to provide an independent service to universities and to students. Its role is to provide that service, not put political spin on the information it provides." The Liberal Democrats believe UCAS is being pressurised by Labour to provide more government-friendly information.

UCAS is calling for an immediate apology from the Liberal Democrats for a "disgraceful slur". Dr Higgins said: "UCAS is not a government department or agency, it is an independent company and registered charity run by a board elected by the universities and colleges themselves. We do not peddle a pro-Government line, nor are we asked to, and we have never shied away from telling it like it is."

Cricketers caught out by thief's googly

BY A CORRESPONDENT

FOUR cricketers were tricked by a thief who stole their wallets into telling him their bank card identification numbers.

Kent captain Matthew Fleming, opening batsman Rob Key, wicketkeeper Steve Marsh and coach John Wright, were playing touch rugby when rain disrupted play in their game against Hampshire at Southampton. While they were outside, the thief got into the Kent changing room and made off with their wallets.

Some time later, while the team were waiting to bat, he telephoned the players, claiming to be a police officer who had caught the culprit. He then asked each of them to tell him their identification numbers to prove they were the owners of the cards. All four did so, allowing the thief to steal about £200 from each of them.

A police source said: "It's a very common scam. Normally people don't fall for it." Fleming, who has played for England, said: "They stung each of us once, but fortunately it wasn't too great a loss."

Tony Baker, Hampshire's chief executive, said the players were going in and out of the changing room and failed to take advantage of security arrangements. "We advise that no valuables be left in the changing rooms. I became aware what had happened when the four went in to the club office to use the phone about the thefts. They realised they had been rather foolish."

Press and Palace reach deal on Princes

A new agreement should lead to more information but less intrusion, says **Raymond Snoddy**

THE press and St James's Palace nave reached "a new understanding" over coverage of Prince William and Prince Harry, which should mean more access to the Princes in return for greater restraint from editors.

The deal has been brokered by Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, in the form of new guidelines on coverage of the Princes. The guidelines have been endorsed by St James's Palace as "a firm basis for avoiding problems that might arise in future" and by national newspaper editors.

Lord Wakeham said yesterday that there was legitimate public interest in news and information about the way the Princes were growing up, and that included the progress of their education. The Palace had always accepted that an insistence on absolute privacy would be unsustainable.

In future, the commission chairman said, access to the Princes at the start of a holiday at Balmoral or the beginning of a ski trip "has got to be part of the planning".

In return, editors had to ensure that the young Princes did not face weekly headlines about them, even if the stories were harmless. "When you take a 14-year-old boy — week in, week out — seeing stories in the tabloids about himself, you cannot argue that is not intrusion," Lord Wakeham said.

"The outcome should be more information coming out, but less newspaper intrusion into their lives through bits of gossip and bits of stories."

Although the new guidelines are aimed specifically at Prince William and Prince Harry, Lord Wakeham believes they are a good basis for press coverage of children of people such as Tony Blair.

As part of the new understanding with the Palace, complaints against *The Mirror* and *Daily Star* over coverage of Prince Harry injuring himself in a rugby game would not go ahead.

In a letter to Lord Wakeham, Stephen Lambert, private secretary to the Prince of Wales, wrote: "While noting that the PCC has not ruled on whether these articles were, or were not, a breach of the [commission's] code, it seems to me that this is a very sensible outcome to those complaints, and a firm basis for avoiding problems that might arise in future."

Lord Wakeham acknowledged yesterday that it would be difficult to decide when an accumulation of stories about the two boys had gone too far, but editors would simply have to use their judgment.

"The code and effective self-regulation have achieved a great deal to date in guaranteeing the Princes a degree of privacy," Lord Wakeham said. But it was time to reassess the situation after the tightening of the code on the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The biggest rows recently between the Palace and the tabloids have involved *The Mirror*. Last November, under the headline "Harry's Had an Accident", *The Mirror* reported that the Prince had hurt himself but that the paper was not allowed to tell its readers any details. The paper also printed a warning letter from the Prince of Wales's deputy private secretary, Colleen Harris, with all the relevant details blacked out. It soon emerged that the Prince had hurt shoulder playing rugby at Eton.

In October the *Mirror* published a story about Prince Harry having to have most of his hair shaved off under the headline: "He wanted to look like Michael Owen — Prince Harry forced to have his hair cropped as prank backfires".

Yesterday Lord Wakeham said that he thought stories last year about the Princes abseiling without helmets and safety lines were in the public interest.



Wakeham: called for restraint from editors



PAT HANNAGAN

Uncovering of the enclosure at the Tower, where dogs were used as bait for lions

When lions roared at Tower of London

By Alan Hamilton

ARCHAEOLOGISTS at the Tower of London have uncovered the foundations of an ancient menagerie that far predates the Regent's Park Zoo. We have been gazing at exotic beasts for longer than we think.

A dig near the present-day entrance to the Tower has exposed the base of the Lion Tower, built in the 13th century as a grand entrance to the principal fortress of the kingdom, but employed from its earliest days as a house of amusement. Like Elizabeth II opening up the State Apartment of Buckingham Palace, Henry III was not averse to pulling in the crowds, particularly when he could take a groat off them.

The royal menagerie began at the Tower in 1235 with the gift of three leopards from the Emperor of France. Then the King of Norway presented Henry with a polar bear, complete with collar and lead, which was regularly taken for a swim in the Thames.

As a tourist attraction, the menagerie really took off in Elizabethan times, when wolves and porcupines were added to the collection.

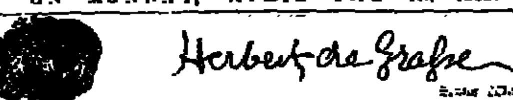
James I, fresh down from Edinburgh in 1603 as first monarch of Great Britain, enjoyed baiting the lions with dogs. Usually, but not always, the lions won.

According to a contemporary account: "You shall understand the two last dogs, whilest the lion held them both under his pawes, did bite the lion by the belly, whereat the lion roared so extreamely that the earth shook withall, and the next lion rampt and roared as if he would have made rescue."

Fascination with strange creatures remained undiminished for another century. Ned Ward, author of *The London Spy*, noted in 1699 after a visit to the Lion Tower, which by then exhibited a number of stuffed beasts: "The next ill-favoured creatures that were presented to our sight were a couple of pretty looking hell-cats, called a tiger and a catamountain, whose fierce penetrating eyes pierced through my belly to the sad gripping of my guts as if, basilisk-like, they could have killed at a distance with the very looks."

But Ned had the live animals still to come. "In another apartment or ward, for the convenience of drawing a penny more out of the pocket of a spectator, are placed these following animals: first a leopard, who is grown as cunning as a cross Bedlamite that loves not to be looked at. For as the madman will be apt to salute you with a bowl of chamber-lie, so will the leopard, if you come near him, stare in your face and piss upon you, his urine being as hot as aqua fortis, and stinks worse than a polecat's."

Things are better now. Most animals, bar a token lion or two, were moved in 1830 to stock the zoos of Regent's Park and Dublin. Today the only risk is of aerial bombardment by the ravens.



TOWER OF LONDON.
Admit the Bearer and Friends
TO VIEW THE
ANNUAL CEREMONY
OF
WASHING THE LIONS,
ON MONDAY, APRIL THE 1st, 1856.
Herbert de Grafe
ADMITTED ONLY AT THE WHITE GATE

An April Fool ticket to see the "washing of the lions"

Fans reject old films in survey

By Robin Young

THE best British film of all time is *Trainspotting*, according to a poll conducted by the magazine *Total Film*.

The survey of 2,000 readers suggests that cinema fans have short memories. All but one of the top six was made in the past five years. The only film of advanced age that made the top six was *The Italian Job* at number four. It was one of three Michael Caine films in the top 20.

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels came second, and *The Full Monty* third. *Shallow Grave* came in at number five, followed by *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Get Carter* and *Monty Python's Life of Brian*.

Another poll, by UCI Cinemas and *Empire* magazine, declared *Schindler's List* the best film of the past ten years, ahead of *The Silence of the Lambs*, *JFK*, *Reservoir Dogs*, *Speed*, and *Leon*.

Four die as plane falls to earth 'like a stone'

By Paul Wilkinson

A HERO of a previous air emergency was among four businessmen who died when when a light aircraft crashed and burst into flames minutes after take-off yesterday.

Witnesses said the plane "dropped like a stone" into fields on the edge of the village of Hemingborough, near Selby, in Yorkshire.

Three years ago Gerry Davitt was piloting his own plane with his 11-year-old son, Joe, when the undercarriage was damaged. The schoolboy took the controls while his father explained crash-landing procedures to passengers. Mr Davitt subsequently made a near-perfect emergency landing and Joe was presented with a Child of Courage award.

Yesterday Mr Davitt was a passenger on the flight from Sherburn in Elmet, nine miles from the crash scene, with his father, Laurence, and two friends. They were on their way to a pilots' conference in The Netherlands.

Last night Mr Davitt's widow, Chris, who has a daughter, Philippa, and another son, Lee, was too upset to talk about the tragedy at their home in Naburn, near York.

The pilot was named as Paul Blackburn, from Spofforth, near Wetherby. The other passenger was Kenneth Moore, from Harrogate.

One witness reported hearing the engine cut out and then restart briefly before it appeared through low cloud. The plane plunged almost vertically into a cornfield close to the main railway line between Selby and Hull.

A fireman said: "The plane is not spread about the field, it must have been diving very steeply because it's still in one chunk. There is a deep mark in the field where it hit and some debris scattered around the wreckage, but that's all."

The villager who raised the alarm, Bob Dennis, said: "I was feeding my dogs when I heard an aircraft engine cut out, start again and then stop. The plane then came straight down out of the clouds, spinning.

"It seemed the pilot was trying to level out. I thought he was going to pull the plane back up, but then I lost view of it behind the trees and heard a loud thud."



Roseanne offers daughters

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

TWO Oxford students and a young British businessman are to take part in a Jewish matchmaking exercise on American television with the three daughters of the chat show host Roseanne Barr.

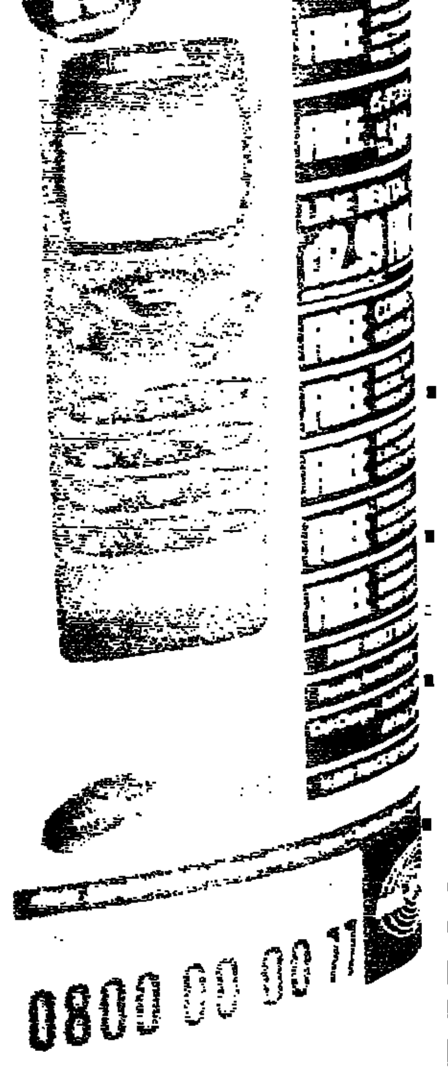
The men are looking for Jewish girlfriends who may one day become their wives. Scott Silverman, 24, from Chicago, is reading for a doctorate in clinical molecular genetics and Dorian Barag, 27, an Israeli, is reading law. Jay Sinclair, 24, of London, runs his own catering business. They were matched with Barr's daughters by Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, author of the best-seller *Kosher Sex*.

While promoting the book in America, he was invited by Barr on her show to find three Jewish men for Brandi, 27, Jessica, 24, and Jennifer, 23. Rabbi Boteach argues for a return of the traditional Jewish matchmaker.

None of the men knows which daughter he will be dating. The dates will be televised and the men invited on to the show to discuss their experiences. Contrary to popular belief, the Jewish community has never had arranged marriages, a practice outlawed by the Bible, but arranged introductions are not uncommon.

Rabbi Boteach found the men through his L'Chaim student organisation. He said: "Without matchmakers, only people with overt virtue, like beauty, wealth and charisma, get noticed."

Mr Silverman said: "It is possible for a third party to evaluate the qualities of potential partners and see whether they will make a good match."





Flabby prison guards ordered to exercise yard

By Richard Ford
Home Affairs Correspondent

FITNESS tests are being planned for prison officers after the National Audit Office found that a "sickness culture" is costing the service up to £62 million a year.

Twenty-three thousand officers would undergo annual checks on their speed, strength and endurance. An average of 16.7 days a year per officer is being lost through sick leave.

The Prison Service is planning the rigorous tests after voluntary health screening found that staff were overweight and did not take enough exercise, according to the audit office report published today. Half of the 13,000 volunteers were told to take more exercise and almost three fifths were given advice on improving their diet.

A Prison Service spokesman confirmed that it was considering introducing the fitness tests later this year. Staff who failed the tests would be given the chance to improve their fitness and retake the examination, but the report does not say whether they would be forced to leave their jobs if they did not meet fitness standards.

The report found that levels of absence varied between different establishments, and between female and male staff. Women prison officers averaged 18 days a year compared with 13 days for men. At East Sutton Park jail, near Maidstone, the figure for 1997-98 was 26.2 days.

David Roddan, general secretary of the Prison Governors' Association, said: "The results of this report are extremely embarrassing. Three years ago similar results were found and the Prison Service did nothing. We really must get our house in order and stop wasting the taxpayers' money."

A Prison Service source said prisons were riddled with a "sickness culture" and that staff and management were both to blame.

The audit office report found that the record of privately run jails in dealing with sick leave was much better, with staff at Blakenhurst, near Redditch, taking 6.3 days sick leave a year and at Doncaster 4.4 days a year. It found that one fifth of all sick leave was because of stress and anxiety and that two fifths of staff surveyed in three jails said their stress was linked to the style of management.

The audit office report estimated that the salary cost and related costs of sickness absence were between £56 million to £62 million a year, the cost of two new 600-cell prisons. About 1,180 prison officers are not available for duty because they are sick on any one day of the year.

The audit office is also highly critical of the rate of retirement from the Prison Service on medical grounds and suggests that attractive benefits could be encouraging long-term sick leave leading to early retirement.

THE SICK LIST

The audit office report lists the worst prisons for staff sickness as Swansea, Gloucester, Norwich, Shrewsbury, Dorchester and Risley. Four women's jails are among the worst: East Sutton Park averages 26.2 days absence per prison officer a year, Bullwood Hall 25.5, Cookham Wood 23.7 and Styal 22.8. About 21 per cent of sick leave taken by prison officers in 1997-98 was because of stress, anxiety or depression; 20 per cent was because of injuries caused in accidents or assaults in jails; 17 per cent was because of back, neck and other joint pains; 11 per cent was because of colds and flu; 4 per cent was because of heart disease and blood disorders; and 27 per cent was because of conditions including cancer.



Fully recovered and ready for duty: Jasper, left, and Reisilin with RSPCA Superintendent Tom Austin

Starving pair get new lease of life

By Helen Johnstone

A HORSE rescued from starvation by the RSPCA could soon be performing official duties for the Queen. Jasper, a three-year-old thoroughbred-shire cross, was found starving, emaciated and ridden with worms and lice at stables in Hyssington, Powys, in October last year.

Mervyn Jones, 69, a groom and transporter for the British Olympic eventing team in the 1948 games, was jailed for five months and banned from owning horses for life after admitting 13 charges of causing unnecessary suffering to animals.

Jasper, named because of his passion for carrots, is now likely to join the Household Cavalry after being handed over to the Army yesterday. It is believed to be the first time the Household Cavalry has taken on a horse rescued by the RSPCA. He will be trained and assessed by the Defence Animal Centre in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, before serving with the King's Troop.

Sergeant Major Hutton Kohler said: "He will be a ceremonial charger soon enough and then will be serving on parade at the Queen's birthday and other state events. The Army as a whole takes on 40 horses a year and we always look for a horse that is big, bold and handsome with lots of character, which is something Jasper definitely has."

Jasper's stablemate, Reisilin, who was found in similar conditions, is to join the Wimbledon and Putney Common Conservators, in southwest London, on law and order patrols.

PC forced to resign over racist insults

By Paul Wilkinson

A POLICE officer has been forced to resign after making a series of racist remarks to a black colleague.

PC Richard Chapman, 48, was suspended late last year by Cleveland Police after the fellow officer at the Hartlepool police station complained. Mr Chapman subsequently appeared before an internal disciplinary hearing, at which he was found guilty of misconduct and forced to quit.

His victim, Michael McArdle, who still serves with the Cleveland force, is now bringing a racial harassment claim against his employers. He claimed that Chapman repeatedly called him a "nigger" for 12 months until he made an official complaint.

The disciplinary hearing was conducted last Wednesday by Crispian Strachan, the Chief Constable of Northumbria Police.

Mr McArdle, who has been a policeman for 12 years, mostly in Hertfordshire, is currently carrying out light duties after suffering from stress. He has lodged a complaint with the employment tribunal in Newcastle. No date for a hearing has yet to be fixed.

Ashok Kumar, the Labour MP for Middlesbrough South and Cleveland East, said: "It is good news that action has been taken. I am glad to see the police are taking racism seriously. This serves as a warning to others.

"It must have been a terrible ordeal for the officer and the quicker it is settled the quicker he can get on with his job."

Last month it emerged that PC Brian Docherty, the chairman of the Cleveland branch of the Police Federation, was disciplined three years ago for calling a teenager a "black bastard".

At the time of the publication of the Lawrence report, Barry Shaw, Cleveland's Chief Constable, warned his officers that those guilty of racism faced dismissal. "The force equal opportunities policy identifies both the legal and moral responsibility of all staff to challenge any kind of racial harassment," he said. "Racist or sexist language or behaviour is offensive to colleagues and members of the public and will not be tolerated."

One per cent of officers in the Cleveland force are from ethnic minorities, compared with 1.7 per cent of the local community and some 4 per cent of people in Middlesbrough.

Cleaner stole a tidy sum

By A Correspondent

A CLEANER made off with £22,776.78 after finding the safe open at a building society where he was working.

Gordon Scott stuffed bundles of cash into the panniers of his bicycle before pedalling off into the night, magistrates in Swindon were told. The theft was noticed the next morning when staff arrived to find that the safe was still open, and the cleaning had not been done.

Scott, who admitted theft, was working at the Portman Building Society in Gorse Hill, Swindon, when he spotted the money, magistrates were told.

Rob Welling, for the prosecution, said that police tried to trace Scott, who was the obvious suspect, but he had left home. He stayed in bed and breakfast accommodation in London and Oxford before surrendering ten days later.

"He attended the police station and said, 'I have handed myself in,'" Mr Welling said. He had with him a blue shoulder bag containing £19,680.

Scott had been earning £25 a week as a cleaner. He is to be sentenced at Crown Court.

Macari's son found hanged

By A Correspondent

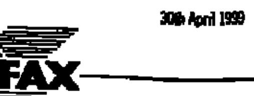
THE son of Lou Macari, the former football player and manager, was found hanging from a tree yesterday.

Police said Jonathan Macari, 19, was discovered by two people on their way to work in Trentham, Staffordshire, in the early morning. A spokesman said that the death was not being treated as suspicious.

The teenager, who was single, lived at the family home in Trentham. He joined Nottingham Forest as a schoolboy in July 1996, along with 23 other young hopefuls, on the club's youth training scheme. But last summer the club said it had to cut the number to 16 and he was one of those who left.

Paul Hart, director of Forest's academy, said in a statement: "Everyone at the club is very sorry to hear this terrible news and our sympathies naturally go out to his family. Everyone who knew him is devastated to hear the news."

Another source at the club said: "A lot of the other boys who left us have gone on to play for other football clubs, so I would not like to think his death had any connection with him leaving us."







Football's gravy train about to hit buffers

Only stars can hope to see their pay keep soaring, writes Jason Nissé

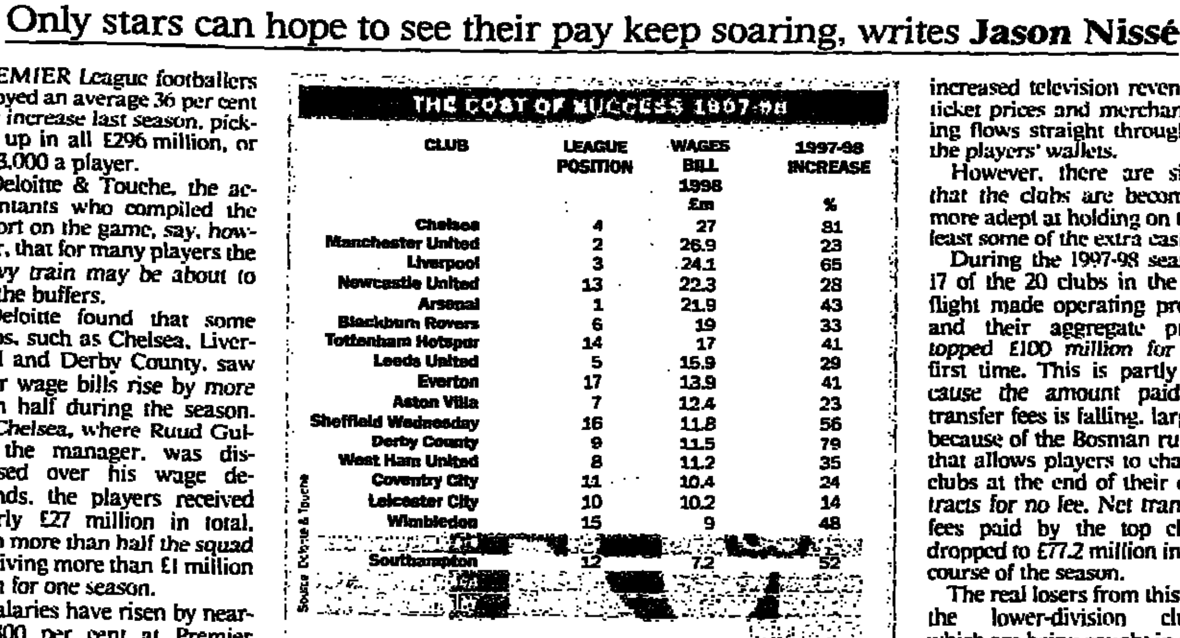
PREMIER League footballers enjoyed an average 36 per cent pay increase last season, picking up in all £296 million, or £253,000 a player.

Deloitte & Touche, the accountants who compiled the report on the game, say, however, that for many players the gravy train may be about to hit the buffers.

Deloitte found that some clubs, such as Chelsea, Liverpool and Derby County, saw their wage bills rise by more than half during the season. At Chelsea, where Ruud Gullit, the manager, was dismissed over his wage demands, the players received nearly £27 million in total, with more than half the squad receiving more than £1 million each for one season.

Salaries have risen by nearly 300 per cent at Premier League clubs since the league was formed in 1992. Top players, such as Alan Shearer, David Beckham or Dennis Bergkamp, were paid more than £2 million by their clubs during the season. And first-year professionals, who used to be employed on the Government's Youth Training Scheme, are now receiving £50,000 a season.

But it is the middle of the pay scale, where Deloitte sees average first-team footballers picking up between £100,000 and £500,000 a year, that faces the squeeze, with players perhaps having to cut back to one bottle of Krug a night and sending back that second sports car.



THE COST OF SUCCESS 1997-98

CLUB	LEAGUE POSITION	WAGES BILL 1998 £m	1997-98 INCREASE %
Chelsea	4	27	81
Manchester United	2	26.9	23
Liverpool	3	24.1	65
Newcastle United	13	22.3	28
Arsenal	1	21.9	43
Blackburn Rovers	6	19	33
Tottenham Hotspur	14	17	41
Leeds United	5	15.9	29
Everton	17	13.9	41
Aston Villa	7	12.4	23
Sheffield Wednesday	16	11.8	56
Derby County	9	11.5	79
West Ham United	8	11.2	35
Coventry City	11	10.4	24
Leicester City	10	10.2	14
Wimbledon	15	9	48
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Southampton	12	7.2	52
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Deloitte & Touche

Gerry Boon, head of Deloitte's football practice, predicts that star salaries will continue to rise. "There are probably about 50 players in England, and about 200 players in Europe, who can go anywhere," Mr Boon said. "These guys will continue to see their wages soar. They are both the chairman's greatest headache and his greatest attraction."

However, he feels that average first-team players are overpaid and that there will be pressure for those wages to drop, or at least to include a much higher performance-related element.

This is already happening at, for example, Southampton, where Rupert Lowe, the chairman, has said that he will pay high wages only for good results. Accordingly, most of the relegation-threatened squad are expecting pay cuts.

Rampant player inflation is the result of what Alan Sugar, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, calls the "prune juice effect", where all the extra money coming into the game from increased television revenues, ticket prices and merchandising flows straight through to the players' wallets.

However, there are signs that the clubs are becoming more adept at holding on to at least some of the extra cash.

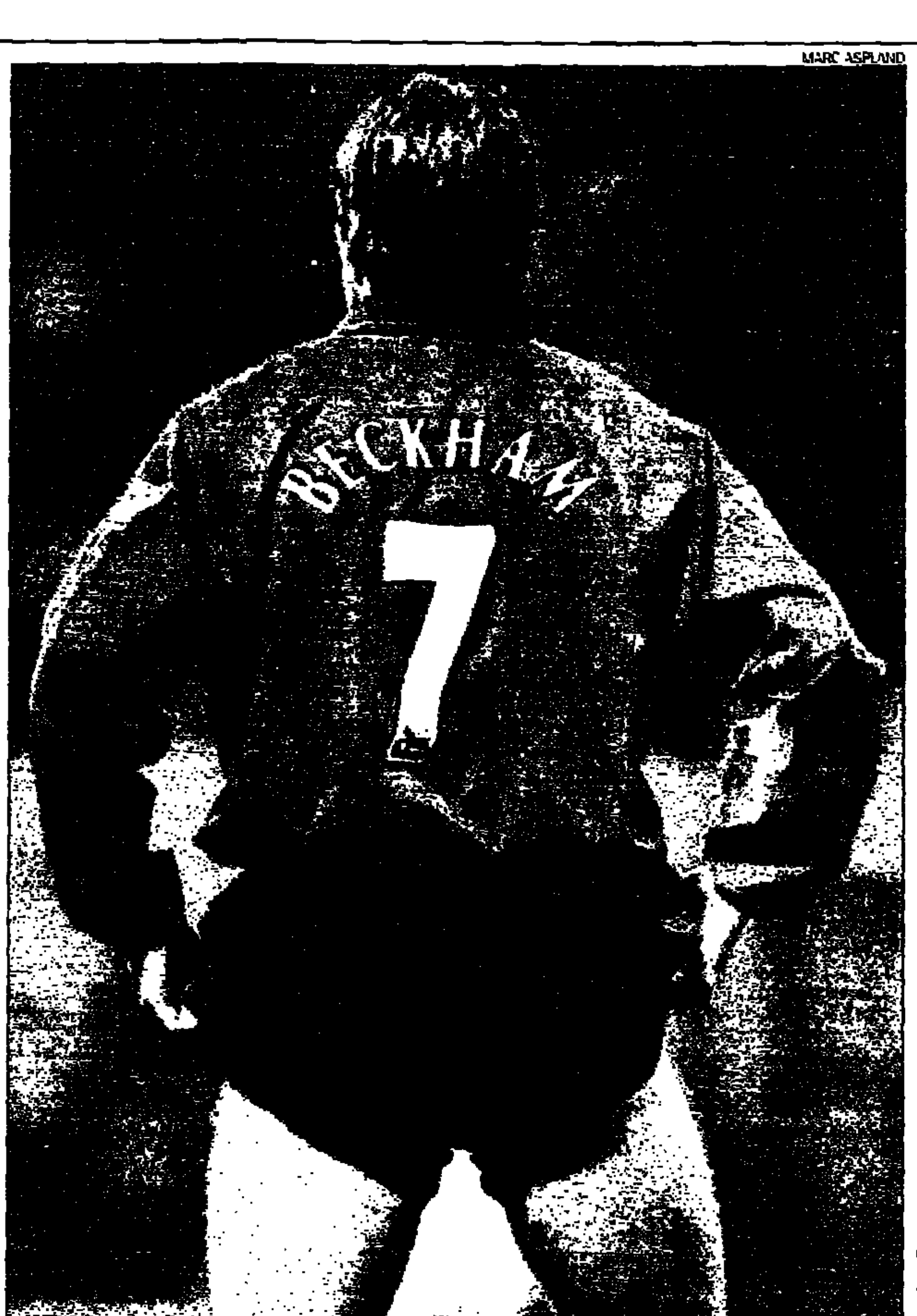
During the 1997-98 season, 17 of the 20 clubs in the top flight made operating profits and their aggregate profit topped £100 million for the first time. This is partly because the amount paid in transfer fees is falling, largely because of the Bosman ruling that allows players to change clubs at the end of their contracts for no fee. Net transfer fees paid by the top clubs dropped to £77.2 million in the course of the season.

The real losers from this are the lower-division clubs, which are being caught in a financial vice. Ambitious First Division clubs such as Ipswich, Birmingham City and Bradford City are having to pay salaries almost equivalent to those in the Premier League to attract the sort of players who can win promotion.

But their income cannot match that of even the smaller Premier League clubs, such as Coventry City or Leicester City. The result, as supporters of Crystal Palace, Portsmouth or Luton Town have seen in recent months, is for clubs to fail financially.

England job, page 60

MARC ASPLAND



David Beckham is one of the few whose £2 million-plus salaries will keep on rising

They play for real money in America

By Jason Nissé

ANYBODY who thinks footballers are overpaid might care to consider the wage packet of Gary Sheffield. The American baseball player, a big hitter who recently moved from the Florida Marlins to the Los Angeles Dodgers, was last season paid $14.9 million (£9.3 million).

Sheffield's bounty — before advertising deals, personal endorsements and computer games based on his hitting — hardly raises an eyebrow in a sport where the players average more than $1 million (£625,000) each.

Unlike Britain, wages paid to major league baseball players are published at the end of each season. Fans know that Pedro Martinez, the Boston Red Sox pitcher, earned $11 million (£6.9 million) for throwing a white ball very hard, or that Albert Belle of the Baltimore Orioles received the sum of $11.9 million (£7.4 million) for hitting it back even harder.

Baseball is not the only sport in which such sums are unremarkable. In basketball, top players such as Shaquille O'Neill are on contracts worth more than $20 million (£12.5 million). Their workload is so light that they can fit in a film career on the side.

Vinnie the hard man lands Disney role

By Tim Reid

THE former Wimbledon footballer Vinnie Jones has landed a big Hollywood film role after impressing Disney executives with his performance in the British-made *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*.

Jones, who became notorious as one of the game's hard men, will star opposite the Oscar-winning actor Nicolas Cage in Disney's *Gone In 60 Seconds*. Since leaving Queens Park Rangers last year to concentrate on his film career, he has attracted widespread admiration in Hollywood for his debut role as a gangland enforcer.

Film executives were said to have been amazed by one scene in which Jones, as Big Chris, attacks a thug who had threatened his young son. "Vinnie was absolutely terrifying in that scene," a Disney spokesman said.



Vinnie Jones in his British film debut

Last night Peter Burrell, Jones's agent, said: "The deal was signed last week. Vinnie is extremely excited about the whole venture. It's one of the biggest budget movies of the year, and Nicolas Cage is one of the biggest stars around at the moment. It takes Vinnie into a US and a global audience. It's a huge move for him."

Shooting of the film, which has a budget of $100 million (£62 million), begins in June and Jones will move to Los Angeles for about five months with his wife, Tanya. He is rumoured to have secured $1 million for the role.

The film is being produced by Jerry Bruckheimer, who made *Top Gun*, *The Rock* and *Enemy of the State*. It follows the fortunes of a gang of car thieves who agree to carry out one final heist before going straight so that the gang leader, Cage, can pay off his younger brother's debt to the mob.

Jones, 33, is to play the leader of a rival gang, a cocky Cockney car thief. He is also in negotiations with Guy Ritchie, director of *Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels*, to star in *Diamonds*, a film about a huge robbery in London.

Scots reject call for a united team

SAM GALBRAITH, the Scottish Sports Minister, yesterday dismissed his English counterpart's call for a united British football team, saying Scotland's 1-0 victory over Germany was proof of the team's strength.

Craig Brown's men enjoyed their night of glory on the same day that Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, described the Scots as the West Ham of world football.

Within hours, Scotland had delivered the perfect riposte, with Don Hutchison grabbing the winner midway through the second period in Bremen. It was the team's first first win in Germany since 1957.

"To coin a footballing phrase, I am over the moon," said Mr Galbraith. "It was a great victory, and I am delighted for Craig Brown and his team. I love it when Scotland win."

He insisted that steps were in place to enable Scotland to become a major global force.

"There are still some good players out there, but we need a steady stream of good players coming through to sustain us at both national and club level.

"We are already committed to investing £1 million into a new football academy, which we believe will provide the basis for the future.

"Football is an integral part of life in Scotland, and we need to ensure that continues and the people have a team to be proud of.

"There has always been talk of a united British team, but I can't see that happening."

Bank reveals growing debt at Everton

By Jason Nissé

THE future of Everton Football Club is in the balance after a secret report by the leading merchant bank NM Rothschild revealed that the club has spiralling debts, currently standing at £18 million.

The poor state of affairs at the Premiership club has led Bill Kenwright, the theatre impresario, to withdraw from a £35 million deal to buy a controlling stake from Peter Johnson, its former chairman.

Mr Kenwright, an Everton director who is backed by bank HSBC, has been in talks for more than three months about a deal to buy Mr Johnson's 68 per cent stake. Mr Johnson originally asked £70 million for the stake — which cost him £19 million six years ago — then cut the price to £50 million and then to £35 million.

Sources close to the deal say that the stake is now worth hardly anything.

The Rothschild report, details of which have been passed to *The Times*, was produced for Mr Johnson as a way of selling the club and handed to Mr Kenwright at the weekend.

It reveals the full extent of the club's financial difficulties, including a current overdraft of about £18 million and projections that Everton will go further into the red during the summer because of outstanding business commitments.

Those familiar with the situation say that Everton would need a cash injection of between £20 million and £25 million to put the club back on an even keel and allow the manager, Walter Smith, to rebuild a team that is still not safe from relegation.

Mr Johnson, a Liverpool fan who recently moved to Jersey for tax reasons, is under pressure to sell his stake in Everton from the Football League, which is unhappy because he also controls Tranmere Rovers, the first division club based across the Wirral from Everton in Birkenhead.

He was forced to stand down as chairman of Everton after a row with Mr Smith over the sale of the club's top striker, Duncan Ferguson, to Newcastle United for £7 million. Mr Smith said that he was not told of the sale before it was agreed. It is believed that Everton sold Ferguson in an attempt to keep its overdraft under control.

Mr Kenwright is understood still to be keen to do a deal to buy Mr Johnson's stake. However, HSBC, which is financing the deal, will not come up with money to pay off Mr Johnson when it is needed to shore up the club.

☐ The Northern Irish football side Portadown won a cup final yesterday without a ball being kicked. Cliftonville, their scheduled opponents in the final that was to have been played tomorrow, were disqualified because one of their players forgot that he had played for another team earlier in the competition.

£500,000 hedge dispute settled after 11 years

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

FIVE law lords made a ruling yesterday on a boundary between two fields that has implications for farmers and landowners across Britain. The decision ended a "hedge and ditch" dispute that dragged on for 11 years and cost more than £500,000.

Their lordships unanimously allowed a challenge by John Insley, of Saverley Green, Staffordshire, and rejected a Court of Appeal ruling that the boundary line of his field ran *down the middle of a hedge*, as indicated by Ordnance Survey. He had claimed that the line ran along the edge of a *ditch on the other side of the hedge*.

The ruling upholds the legality of the "hedges and ditches presumption", which is based on an early 19th-century court ruling stating that "no man making a ditch can cut into his neighbour's soil but usually cuts it to the very extremity of his own land". It followed that, where there was a hedge and a ditch, the boundary line lay along the edge of the ditch on the far side of the hedge. The Court of Appeal had ruled that the presumption did not apply where land was conveyed by reference to Ordnance Survey maps showing boundaries in the middle of hedges.

The marathon litigation over a strip of land 87ft by 6ft, worth at most a few hundred pounds, is a perfect example of what last week's civil justice reforms aim to stop. It occupied the minds of 11 judges — a recorder sitting in a county court, five Court of Appeal judges (two heard the application for leave and three heard the appeal) and five law lords — ran up huge legal costs, and brought about the loss of Mr Insley's computer business and some £57,000 of his money. It also cost the legal aid fund an estimated £100,000.

The other party in the dispute, Alan Wibberley, a builder, estimated that the case had cost him about £100,000.

Law reports, pages 50 & 51



ADRIAN SHERRATT

Anne Wood, founder of Ragdoll Productions, celebrating her award yesterday

Business award for creator of Teletubbies

By Alexandra Frean

ANNE WOOD, creator of the *Teletubbies* — one of the first television programmes to be aimed at children aged *under two* — was named businesswoman of the year yesterday. She started her television production company from home and worked from the front room with her cat on her lap.

Accepting the award at Claridge's hotel in London, Ms Wood said that she was sacked from her job as head of children's television at TV-am because she had different ideas from her bosses about how programmes should be made. "I had an idea for a children's programme and took it to Channel 4 and they said if I wanted to do it I had to set up a company."

The series has stimulated a national debate on attitudes towards very young children and the way they learn language. It is broadcast in 44 countries and has been translated into 21 languages.

Ministers consider 'GM free' label plan

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

SUPERMARKETS that prove that all their ingredients and food additives come from conventionally grown crops would be able to label products as being "GM free" under a scheme being considered by Jeff Rooker, the Agriculture Minister.

Under the current system supermarkets and food manufacturers are required to print labels saying that products as "may contain" genetically modified material if traces of modified soya or maize can be detected.

Such labels are most commonly seen on frozen meals and vegetarian dishes that contain soya. However, the rules do not cover many additives, such as lecithin, flours, colourings, flavourings, oils and vitamins, which are derived from crops such as soya.

Ian Tokelove, a spokesman for the London Food Commission, said that such ingredients could "turn up in almost anything".

"The problem is the consumer still can't see if something is derived from GM crops or not," he said. "We believe everyone has the right to make their own choice."

Norman Baker, the Liberal Democrats' environment spokesman, told Mr Rooker yesterday that many people were worried that genetically modified crops could damage the environment.

Mr Rooker told MPs that companies that had sufficient documentation for individual products might be allowed to use labels stating: "No GM Ingredients Used in the Process or No GM Technology Used in the Process of the Product".

However, he said that the Government was proceeding cautiously because it did not want a system that ended up "conning the public".

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, also disclosed yesterday that the Government was pressing for reforms of the European Directive covering the licensing of genetically modified crops.

He said that the existing system, under which the European Commission can give a crop the go-ahead with the backing of one member state — even if the other 14 states disagree — was unsatisfactory.

In one instance, a herbicide-tolerant oilseed rape crop developed by Novartis was given a green light, despite protests from Britain and other states concerned that the crop could spread antibiotic resistance to farm animals and the public.

Mr Meacher said that he wanted the rules, which are being discussed in Brussels, to be changed so that a majority of countries must be in in favour of such crops.

Cadbury abandons GM soya

By Nick Nuttall

THE giant confectionery firm Cadbury announced yesterday that it would no longer use genetically modified ingredients in its products in response to public concern.

The company said that it was now buying soya lecithin, an emulsifier used in chocolate making, from conventionally grown crops in Europe.

Cadbury's announcement follows others by Tesco, Unilever and Nestlé this week that they would not use genetically modified ingredients.

A spokesman for Cadbury said that the company used soya lecithin in a small number of products. "We use it in dark chocolate but not milk chocolate," he said.

Cadbury lines that contain soya lecithin include Bourneville chocolate, Butterscotch Brittle and Top Deck chocolate. British chocolate uses more milk solids than European chocolates.

Girl dies after breast operation

By Helen Johnstone

A TEENAGER died after becoming infected during surgery to reduce the size of a breast, an inquest was told yesterday.

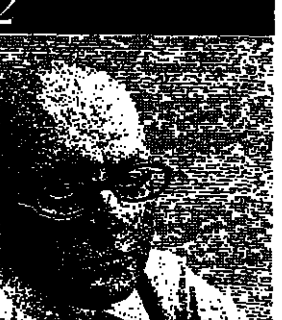
Abigail Stevenage, 19, had chosen to have the surgery because her left breast was three *times bigger than her right*. She had first consulted doctors about breast reducation when she was 17. Stevenage, a clerk, had breast tissue removed by liposuction at Wordsley Hospital, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, in December last year.

When she was discharged after 48 hours, she started complaining of pains in her hands and feet; a week after the operation she was taken to hospital where she died of toxic shock syndrome. The inquest was told that her left breast had become infected, which triggered *blood poisoning*.

Sebastian Pilz, a consultant plastic surgeon, in evidence to the inquest at Kidderminster, said: "Abigail needed this operation, it was not some minor plastic surgery."

A verdict of misadventure was recorded.

TODAY IN SECTION 2





Proms give film scores starring role

The soundtrack from 'Psycho' will feature in the BBC concerts this year, writes **Adam Sherwin**

THE slashing violins that accompanied the shower scene in *Psycho* will jolt audiences at this year's BBC Proms concerts. Bernard Herrmann's frightening score to the Alfred Hitchcock classic will be featured in a special night of film music at the 105th *Proms* season.

Lord Attenborough will host and choose the most memorable musical moments from 100 years of cinema at the concert on July 31. Two award-winning composers will make guest appearances to conduct their music: Maurice Jarre, who won an Oscar for his score to *Lawrence of Arabia*, and George Fenton, who composed the music for Lord Attenborough's *Gandhi* and *Shadowlands*.

Carl Davis will conduct the BBC Concert Orchestra in performances of Herrmann's work for Hitchcock, including *Psycho* and *Vertigo*. The stirring themes from *Star Wars* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, composed by John Williams, will also be featured.

Nicholas Kenyon, the director of the Proms, welcomed the innovation at the launch of the programme yesterday. He said: "The cinema has been one of the most influential artistic inventions of the century and we want to celebrate that. I can't quite bring myself to do the theme from *Titanic* but we are hoping to get some James Bond in there."

Mr Kenyon has made a number of changes to the programme which runs from July 16 to September 11 at the Royal Albert Hall. There will be pre-Proms talks explaining the works and pre-concert performances of music by contemporary composers at the Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park.

The last Proms season of the century will reflect on the achievements of humanity. The main theme will be *The Ascent of Man*, drawn from the late scientist Jacob Bronowski's book of that name. Music by Sir Michael Tippett, Mahler and Schumann will be performed to express the aspirations and struggles of humanity. Mr Kenyon said: "There is a more serious approach this year. This has been a very dark century and we need to reflect on that."

There will be lighter moments, particularly on the Last Night. The actor Jeremy Irons will adopt the persona of Noël Coward and sing some of his best-known works, including *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*.

Irons, who last sang on stage over a decade ago, is expected to attend training sessions at Glyndebourne with Sir Andrew Davis, who will conduct the Last Night. Mr Kenyon said: "People might object to the inclusion of Coward, but he is an integral part of Britain's musical tradition and this is a way to mark the centenary of his birth."

The Last Night is being "devolved" with simultaneous Proms events taking place in Swansea and Birmingham, where there will be performances followed by a big-screen relay of the chest-beating climax at the Albert Hall. Scotland declined to take part in this celebration of national pride.

BBC Television will broadcast ten concerts live including the Last Night. Tickets for the Proms concerts will be priced from £3.

Classic FM is launching its own series of live concerts to rival the Proms. Radio 3's competitor will place the emphasis on bringing live music to the regions, but its choice may not appeal to all Promenaders.

The first event, to be held at Milton Keynes Bowl in June, will feature the violinist Nigel Kennedy performing the works of the Sixties rock guitarist Jimi Hendrix.



ROY RILEY

Violinists of the BBC Symphony Orchestra on the balcony of the Royal Albert Hall in Kensington tuning up for this year's Proms season whose theme is The Ascent of Man

A SEASON OF HIGHLIGHTS

- ☐ A celebration of Irish music on August 12 featuring the pipes of Liam O'Flynn and Anuna.
- ☐ The Children's BBC Proms in the Park will feature the chart-topping choirgirl Charlotte Church in Hyde Park on September 12.
- ☐ *1,000 Years of Music in a Day*. Selections from each century covering the themes of creation and the planets. Two concerts on 18 July.
- ☐ International stars including Cecilia Bartoli, Sir Simon Rattle, Zubin Mehta and the Bavarian State Orchestra.
- ☐ A concert dedicated to Duke Ellington with Clark Terry, a trumpeter in his band.
- ☐ Free informal talks on the evening's music, featuring the American conductor Leonard Slatkin.
- ☐ The Serpentine Gallery hosts performers from leading music colleges during talks by composers.
- ☐ Music by Beethoven, Mozart and Brahms.

Tribunal told sacked surgeon is a liar

A SURGEON fighting an unfair dismissal case after he was sacked by a hospital trust was yesterday branded a liar at the hearing.

David Skidmore, the senior consultant at the Joyce Green Hospital in Dartford, Kent, was said to have deliberately misled the trust at an internal inquiry into claims that he mishandled an operation.

Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust's lawyer Andrew Andrews told an industrial tribunal at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk: "Mr Skidmore could not be trusted to tell the truth and did not have the confidence of the management."

Mr Andrews said there had also been complaints about Mr Skidmore's surgical competence. "There are patients who cannot speak highly enough of him. But equally there are those who feel he has ruined their lives," he said.

Mr Skidmore, 59, from Blackheath, South London, was awarded the OBE in 1984after he was credited with saving the life of Norman Tebbit's wife in the Brighton bomb blast.

He had been at the hospital for 18 years and conducted 23,000 operations when he was dismissed in 1997 for gross personal misconduct.

While operating on a woman patient to remove a gall bladder, he accidentally perforated a major artery and she nearly died. He is alleged to have lied about the units of blood used to keep her alive.

The hearing continues.

Prince invites 100,000 to pop party in the park

By Alan Hamilton

THE Prince of Wales will party with pop stars and thousands of fans at a concert in Hyde Park which organisers hope will raise more than £500,000 to help unemployed young people.

Encouraged by the success of a similar open-air concert last year that attracted 100,000 people, the Prince's Trust has persuaded The Corrs, Boyzone, UB40, Madness, Martine McCutcheon and many other acts to perform free.

The Party in the Park, on July 4, is expected to be the highlight of a series of events in London's Royal Parks this summer. Residents around the parks have expressed concern about noise and crowds, but Simon Petherick of Royal Parks Enterprises, the commercial arm of the state-run parks agency, said that the performances were limited in number and their dates known well in advance.

The programme of Royal Parks events includes: Regent's Park Flower Show (June 25-28); Cliff Richard, Hyde Park (July 16-18); Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Kensington Gardens (August 15; Last Night of the Proms video link, Hyde Park (September 11).

LINKS

www.capitalfm.com Prince's Trust concert website (including ticket sales)

United front seeks to lift Welsh turnout

By Valerie Elliott

LABOUR strategists are counting on a visit from Tony Blair to Wales today to pep up the assembly election campaign and encourage the voters to turn out next week.

Senior political figures of all parties are concerned that the low-key campaign has failed to capture the imagination of the Welsh and they are determined to inject some belated excitement.

William Hague is expected in Wales this weekend while the Prime Minister could return next week to try to keep up the momentum to polling day on Thursday.

Fears that a low turnout will damage the authority of the new body have helped to forge a rare alliance between the political parties and all are determined to reach the target 60 per cent turnout.

Below this level, there is nervousness that the new assembly could start off as a lame duck with few people treating it seriously or even taking notice of its work.

The 60 per cent target was set out for the first time in the Welsh Office annual report published earlier this month and the Government has allocated £2 million for a public information campaign about the assembly.

But with just one week to go before election day it is not certain that the threshold will be reached. While 75 per cent of Welsh people voted in the last general election, the figure dropped to just 50.3 per cent in the referendum on devolution.

An NOP survey for HTV Wales showed that only 55 per cent of the public were likely to bother to vote.

Labour's decision to bus Alun Michael, Welsh Secretary, around Wales is another attempt by the party to encourage voters to turn out.

Senior party figures calculated that a low turnout will affect Labour's chances of clinching the assembly leadership for Mr Michael with Plaid Cymru standing the most to gain from apathy among the supporters of other parties.

Even a leading Welsh bookmaker, Jack Brown, is predicting a close contest for the post of first secretary and the latest betting is evens for both Mr Michael and Dafydd Wigley, the Plaid Cymru president.

It is still uncertain whether Mr Michael can clinch his assembly place on the PR list in Mid and West Wales. The latest poll findings suggest that, if just 500 Labour votes switch to Plaid Cymru, he could lose. Labour is determined therefore to make the most of the last days of the campaign.

Blair offers Scots clear choice

Prime Minister to intervene as poll suggests Labour lead is slipping, reports Jason Allardyce



Dave Burnet, an SNP member, reads the first edition of the party's new newspaper, created to counter alleged media bias

THE Prime Minister will today make a personal appeal to Scots to have no truck with the "dangerous" and "divisive" SNP after a poll suggested the nationalists were staging a startling recovery.

With only seven days until elections to the first Scottish parliament in 300 years, Tony Blair will claim in Glasgow that Scots face "a clear and fundamental choice". In a strongly worded speech in Glasgow he will say: "Our opponent's central ambition is divisive: to break Britain apart. Their economic policy is not credible. Their figures don't add up. Their policies are dangerous. They are too big a risk."

His personal intervention comes after a System Three poll suggested that Labour's 20-point lead over the SNP identified last week has shrunk to 11 points on the first vote. The poll also pointed to a gap of only three points on the second proportional representation vote. This would give Labour 55 seats in the 129-member legislature, compared with the SNP's 48 and would leave the nationalists just two seats short of being able to form a coalition with the Lib Dems with 15 seats.

Mr Blair will say today that Labour has changed Scotland and that the party now wants to use the parliament to change Scotland. "We have established the parliament not just to achieve better democracy but also to achieve better schools, better hospitals and better housing."

He will claim that the United Kingdom is "better off united and worse off apart, stronger together and weaker apart".

The narrowing gap between the parties just days ahead of the elections has wiped out any complacency in the Labour camp. A party spokeswoman said: "There is a full week left and we will be fighting for every vote, fighting to deliver our pledges to build Scotland's future. We will also continue to expose the costs and risks of the SNP's plans for an immediate, messy and expensive divorce."

The findings are broadly in line with recent private polling by both parties which has put the difference between them at around 10 points in the first vote. The findings suggest that anger directed at Alex Salmond for condemning the Nato action in the former Yugoslavia may be dissipating and voters may be warming to the SNP leader's plans to forgo next year's penny tax cut to invest £690 million in public services.

The SNP also believes the recovery shows that the dramatic tactical switch last week to take its message directly to the people — the equivalent of John Major's soapbox — may be paying dividends.

Mike Russell, the SNP chief executive, said that the latest poll reflected the party's belief that the past week has gone well. "Now we have seen evidence that shows we were correct. We have felt certain for some time that people were responding to our message. People want a positive message, they want confidence and the best parliament possible."

Launching Labour's Scottish business manifesto yesterday, the Chancellor Gordon Brown said: "We don't talk about opinion polls, as you know." But he promised that Labour would promote positive policies in contrast to the SNP's failure to answer key questions like the financial implications of independence.

Two votes in a new world of choices

By Peter Riddell

THE battle for control of the first Scottish parliament since 1707 is far from over. The latest System Three poll for *The Herald* suggests that the SNP cannot yet be written off. But this is not merely because of fluctuating poll ratings.

Next Thursday, people will have two votes. The first will be for their constituency member, while the second will be for regional lists of candidates. This should produce a more proportional overall result. But will both votes be cast for the same party, or will people hedge their bets?

Labour naturally hopes not. Their talk is all of two votes, not two choices. But there is still much confusion. Germany operates an additional member system similar to that used in Scotland; in Bundestag elections, support for the Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats is often between four and eight percentage points lower on the second than the first vote. Some people switch to the Free Democrats and Greens to ensure that they get over the 5 per cent threshold needed to gain seats since they usually win no constituency members.

Recent polls suggest that, while between 15 and 30 per cent of Scots say they may vote differently on the second ballot, there is no clear pattern. Unlike Germany, there is no outright gainer.

Simon Braunholtz of MORI Scotland, which polls for *The Sunday Herald*, says that switchers from Labour to SNP between first and second votes are more likely to be men, aged 18 to 34, and students.

A paradox of this system is that having won all, or virtually all, the constituency seats in, say, Glasgow or Central Scotland, Labour cannot win any more under the second/proportional top-up ballot. So it is rational for Labour supporters in these regions to back a different party in the second ballot. But voters may not yet realise they have such a choice.

Talk of a big Labour victory could encourage switching to other parties on the second ballot and may also affect turnout. It does not matter very much in a general election if turnout falls in safe seats, as it did in 1997, since Labour still wins, but it does matter when people have a second regional vote.

Predicting the result is fraught with uncertainties. We are in a new world in which voters, as well as politicians, will learn to behave differently.

Lib Dems attack SNP spending 'black hole'

CAMPAIGN FOR SCOTLAND 99

The Scottish Liberal Democrats claimed to have found an £87 million "black hole" in SNP spending plans. Malcolm Bruce, the Lib Dem treasury spokesman, said the nationalists' "Penny for Scotland" plan to raise £690 million had failed to take into account the cost of collecting the tax. The SNP would either have to raise tax by more than 1p in the pound or scale back its manifesto pledges. "SNP figures just don't add up. This is a blunder of monumental proportions. The SNP cannot be taken seriously as a potential party of government when they cannot even get their basic sums right."

QUOTE of the day

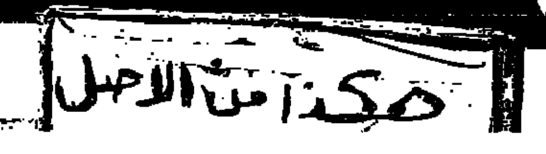
John Swinney, the SNP's deputy leader, uses a Scots phrase to insist that his party's economic document published today will confound the critics:

'I think it will put a few people's gas at a peep'

today's AGENDA

Tony Blair attends the Press Fund launch in Glasgow. Alex Salmond explains the economics of independence. William Hague, on a flying visit to Edinburgh and Perth, talks about Labour's tax and jobs record. The Lib Dems will focus on NHS bed-blocking.





Tories pile the blame on Lilley

By Philip Webster and Roland Watson

THE knives were well and truly out for Peter Lilley yesterday as William Hague briefly escaped the Westminster hothouse for the election campaign trail.

As the Tory leader's difficulties have worsened this week, the anger directed at his deputy from Conservative MPs and fellow members of the Shadow Cabinet has intensified.

And it is genuine fury. They reject any suggestion that Mr Lilley is being cast in the role of scapegoat. "He is the reason we are in this trouble. It is not William's fault," a senior Tory MP said yesterday.

No one is trying to excuse Mr Hague from some responsibility for the fiasco — they believe that he should have reined Mr Lilley back when he was told two days beforehand that Mr Lilley was delivering a speech putting tight limits on the role of the private sector in health and education provision, and was allowing political correspondents to be briefed in advance. They believe that Mr Hague should have questioned Mr Lilley more closely beforehand.

However, they are deeply irritated that Mr Lilley should have gone out on a limb without fuller consultation and clearly without understanding the explosive impact his remarks would have on the wider party at such a sensitive time. While many frontbenchers sympathise with Mr Lilley's and Mr Hague's attempt to rid the party of an electoral albatross they believe the timing of the move was crass and blame Mr Lilley for it.

They believe that in his efforts to raise his low profile he did the party a disservice and should never have sprung the speech on Mr Hague and the Shadow Cabinet. Mr Lilley's alleged failure as the party's head of policy is also under attack.

Mr Hague has decided to take a much closer role in what will be seen as a downgrading of Mr Lilley's position. Some ministers close to Mr Hague think he should go the whole hog and ditch the man whose public appearances have not been a great success in the past two years.

They believe that Mr Hague could sack Mr Lilley without any fear of a backlash from the party. "There are no Lilley supporters on the backbenches," one said.

Sacking Mr Lilley before he is due to produce the first fruits of his policy review with a mini-manifesto in the autumn would risk confusing the whole process. Mr Hague might also be nervous that dismissing him might send out the wrong message about his campaign to display Tory support for the public services.

But it is clear that senior members of the Shadow Cabinet blame Mr Lilley rather than Mr Hague for the affair. Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, directed his anger at the former Social Security Secretary when, in a meeting of the Shadow Cabinet a week ago, he took the speech apart paragraph by paragraph. When Mr Howard was asked about the affair in a BBC interview on Sunday he declined to comment.

Speaking to *The Times* earlier this week Mr Howard went out of his way to praise Mr Hague. Other senior Shadow Cabinet members are saying that Mr Lilley had been given an important backroom role and should have stayed there.

There is no criticism of Mr Hague for standing by Mr Lilley when the outcry began. But he is understood to have been unhappy by the original draft of the Lilley speech and the "spin" that he had suggested be put upon it.

Tory MPs say that with a Shadow Cabinet reshuffle approaching, Mr Hague has the obvious opportunity to drop Mr Lilley. Mr Howard has already announced that he is going and Mr Hague has an opportunity to make a break with the past.



William Hague campaigning in Liverpool yesterday: many of the questions were about his own future as party leader

Hague faces voters with a fixed grin

By Russell Jenkins

WILLIAM HAGUE gave every impression of a political leader under extreme pressure yesterday when he visited Liverpool. His smile remained fixed but answers grew terser.

If he was looking for respite from Westminster, he found limited comfort on Merseyside where he delivered a speech to businessmen at a CBI lunch. Everyone from businessmen in the boardroom to people in the street wanted to know the answer to only one question — would he still be Conservative Party leader by the end of summer?

Mr Hague promptly replied "absolutely" but underneath the glued-on smile his brisk business-as-usual attitude could be easily mistaken for something closer to tetchiness.

He headed for the regions haunted by the Times Mori poll showing a further collapse in his personal standing among supporters. The Opposition leader was pursued around the marble lobby of the fortress-like Royal Sun Alliance building by newsmen clutching copies of *The Times* carrying the poll which concluded that only 10 per cent of voters now regard him as a capable leader. At one point he suddenly dropped his sang froid insisting: "I don't believe what I read in newspapers and I don't read them anyway."

Over lunch he was happy to fend off questions behind closed doors from an audience of northern business leaders about interest rates, tax regulations and job losses. He was finally cornered in the managing director's office on the tenth floor of the Sun Alliance building.

Sebastian Coe, his head of office, stood to one side. Asked about Tory grandees calling for his head, he replied: "It is rubbish of an order I do not bother to read."

The suggestion is, said the man from *The Express*, is that you are fighting for the leadership. "When I want suggestions from the *Daily Express* I'll ask for them," replied Mr Hague snappishly. "I don't believe what I read in newspapers and I don't read them anyway." Mr Hague was showing his face in the regions in the run up to the local government elections. He went electioneering in Lichfield in the morning and later visited Ribblesdale High School, in Clitheroe, Lancashire.

HOW TORIES RATE THE LEADERS – KEY MEASURES

	Blair	Hague
Satisfied	41%	30%
Dissatisfied	51%	56%
Capable leader		17%
Has got a lot of personality		7%
Rather inexperienced		55%
Good in a crisis		5%

Source: MORI / Base: 232 Conservatives 23-26 April

When mid-term blues engulf the Opposition

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

WILLIAM HAGUE'S problems are far deeper and more serious than the Tories' self-inflicted, and largely unnecessary, row of the past ten days. The latest MORI poll for *The Times* shows in brutal detail how Mr Hague has failed to make any public impact, is doing worse than previous Leaders of the Opposition and has lost the confidence of many Tory supporters.

On each of 14 measures of leadership, the Tory leader is dwarfed by the Prime Minister. Even more worrying is that Mr Hague's poor ratings have failed to improve in any way since his image was first measured in autumn 1997.

Moreover, his ratings compare poorly with Neil Kinnock's in October 1985, two years after he became Leader of the Opposition (and are worse even than Michael Foot's). While 46 per cent now regard Mr Hague as inexperienced, 32 per cent took the same view of Mr Kinnock then. The contrast is 10 to 27 per cent on being a capable leader, 5 to 26 per cent on having a lot of personality and 11 to 28 per cent on understanding the problems facing Britain.

Mr Hague's defenders say all this is unfair. Mr Hague is a lively, intelligent and amusing man, a strong performer in the House of Commons, and publicly unflappable, as he showed on the election trail yesterday. But he has so far failed to communicate those characteristics to the public.

His low poll ratings are, of course, part of the wider problem of the Tories' failure to win back public confidence. Even among those dissatisfied with the way the Government is running the country, 61 per cent are also dissatisfied with Mr Hague's performance, with 17 per cent satisfied. The only mid-term blues are the Tories', not Labour's, whose current poll ratings are nearly 20 points higher than the Major and Thatcher Governments' half-way through their parliaments.

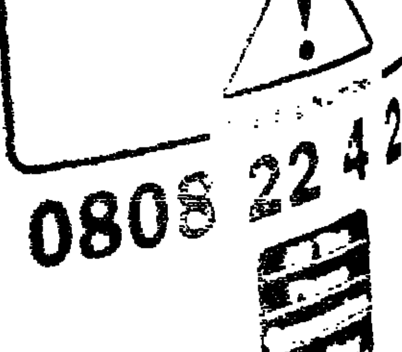
In June 1981, for example, the Labour Opposition had a 39 per cent share of the vote, while the Tory Government had a 31 per cent share. In June 1985, the contrast was 36 to 35 per cent, and, in June 1989, the contrast was 47 to 37 per cent. In each of those cases, the Tories recovered and went on to win. In June 1994, Labour led by 61 to 22 per cent and the Tories never really recovered. This time, the incumbent Blair Government is in a stronger position than at the previous election.

Mr Hague is also vulnerable among the Tory hardcore. He has low approval ratings among traditional Tory supporters such as professionals and managers, owner-occupiers and readers of quality/broadsheet papers. Tory supporters are more satisfied with Mr Blair (41 per cent) than with Mr Hague (30 per cent).

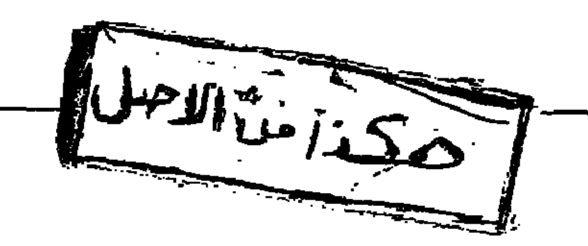
The infighting over Peter Lilley's speech on public spending has reinforced these doubts. It has exposed presentational ineptitude and mistrust within the Shadow Cabinet. Much of Mr Lilley's speech was a largely uncontroversial attempt to reassure the public that most services will remained taxpayer-financed. The key point is whether people have to pay for services, not whether they are provided by the public or the private sectors.

The trouble was that Mr Lilley did not emphasise this distinction sufficiently and allowed the impression to arise that the Tory approach was like Labour's. But, as Mr Hague argued on Wednesday, there is room for a radical Tory position which combines a commitment to taxpayer-funding of core services with greater private provision and extending choice. But the latest fracas has muddled this message, confused the party, and undermined Tory hopes of showing that they are starting to recover in next Thursday's elections.

Can Mr Hague turn this desperate position round? As Mr Kinnock discovered, once an image becomes established in the public mind, it becomes hard to shift. All leaders make mistakes but Mr Hague now desperately needs some luck to go his way.



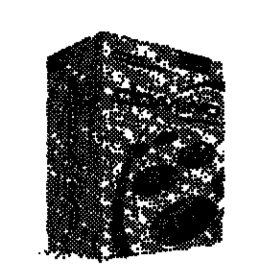




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BALKANS WAR: THE REFUGEES

Kosovo exiles housed next to Serb church

Red Cross reopens 210-bed hotel in Leicester to shelter traumatised Albanians, writes Alex O'Connell

THE second group of Kosovan refugees to be airlifted to Britain were greeted on arrival yesterday with sandwiches and chocolate biscuits, along with a team of social workers and counsellors.

They landed at East Midlands Airport near Derby, where they were given papers and a basic medical examinations before boarding coaches for two reception centres.

It had been an exhausting *day for the group of 169 Kosovans*, including 45 children and adolescents — seven of *them under the age of two.*

Preparations started before 6am, when the refugees at *Stenkovec camp in Macedonia* packed their few belongings into black bin liners and boarded *coaches in the rain.*

Reception centres in Leicestershire and Derbyshire were still being made ready yesterday for the refugees. The first centre is the Cygnet Hotel in Leicester.

The Red Cross found the 210-bed hotel on Monday and *signed a 12-month lease* at midday yesterday. In a 48-hour makeover, kitchens were *adapted* and beds organised so families could stay together.

The choice of hotel has been *criticised as it is only 100 yards* from a Serbian Orthodox Church, St George the Martyr. However, Jean Greaves, director of operations at the British Red Cross said the issue had been discussed with a local liaison group. "It is not an issue at all. We had a meeting and no problems were raised. There has been a Serbian community in Leicester since 1947."

The Derbyshire centre, which received the more traumatised refugees, is at Stretton House in Alfreton.

Refugee Action, a charitable agency, was also working to tight deadlines. The manor house, set in 18 acres of rural countryside, was fitted out in 48 hours. Refugee Action workers have transformed the former special-needs children's home, which is now *owned by Derbyshire County* Council.

On arrival the refugees will *find family bedrooms*, a TV room and a football pitch in the grounds.

The reception meal was simple — fresh fruit, lasagne provided by Meals on Wheels service, and fish, which the refugees have been used to eating in Macedonia.

Sally Price, a spokeswoman for Refugee Action, has assembled 16 Albanian-speaking translators and six social workers over the past few days.

She said: "I think people will be very traumatised. The camps in Macedonia are dirty, there are rats and there is no nutritious food."

SIMON BROOKE-WEBB



A young refugee embraces a friend at Brazde before flying to Britain yesterday

Divided family find a British haven

FROM STEPHEN FARRELL IN BRAZDE

Among the 169 refugees was Sofie Shala, who lost her husband in Pristina when he returned for something in *their flat after their* expulsion six weeks ago. She has not seen him since and fears he is *still* trapped in Kosovo, possibly dead.

Carrying her seven-month-old daughter Blerta, Mrs Shala, 32, was near to tears as she and her sister-in-law, Adlije Shala, waved goodbye to friends at the sprawling Brazde camp in Macedonia.

Last weekend it was they who stood tearfully behind the camp wire as their relatives flew out on the first flight to Britain. Rounding up her four children, Mrs Shala said: "We are very pleased we are going to England but we are sad to be leaving Kosovo."

Another man who suffered a nervous breakdown after being beaten by Serb police decided only at the last minute to join his family on the flight. Shukrie Maliqi, 32, was being treated at the field hospital in Brazde until the evening before the flight departure, leading his wife Sami, 30, to doubt he would be able to accompany her and their three children.

Up to six Kosovan refugees were killed by landmines as a new influx of ethnic Albanians poured into Macedonia, aid agencies said last night.

HOW THE PUBLIC VIEWS BLAIR STRATEGY

Q *How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the Government is handling the crisis in Kosovo?*

±% Net satisfied (satisfied minus dissatisfied)

Group	Net satisfied
ALL	+26
Men	+33
Women	+19
Aged 18-34	+28
Aged 35-54	+25
Aged 55+	+25
Middle Class	+18
Working Class	+33
Con	+11
Labour	+43
Lib Dems	+18
Quality press readers	0
Popular press readers	+30

Source: MORI / Base: 1072 British adults 23-26 April

Support for war remains firm

Peter Riddell says a MORI poll shows a majority of Britons back Blair's handling of the crisis

SUPPORT for the Government's handling of the Kosovo crisis divides sharply along lines of gender, class, region and newspaper readership, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, shows that 57 per cent of the public is satisfied with "the way the Government is handling the crisis in Kosovo", with 31 per cent dissatisfied.

This compares with the balance of 60 to 28 per cent at the beginning of this month on a broadly similar question. This is a small shift given the controversy over the campaign.

Labour supporters back the Government's handling of the operation by roughly 3 to 1 (67 to 23 per cent). Liberal Democrats are supportive by a 55 to 38 per cent margin and more than a half of Tories are satisfied, with two-fifths dissatisfied (51 to 40 per cent).

However, sharp contrasts exist between various social groups. The net balance of those satisfied minus those dissatisfied with the Government's performance over Kosovo is higher among men (plus 33 percentage points) than women (plus 19 points); higher among the working class (plus 33 points) than the middle class (plus *18* points) where support has dropped most during April; higher among readers of "red top" tabloids (plus 39 points) than readers of middle-market papers (plus 13 points) and readers of quality broadsheets (an even balance between satisfied and dissatisfied). Readers of *The Sun* and *The Mirror* are strongest in support.

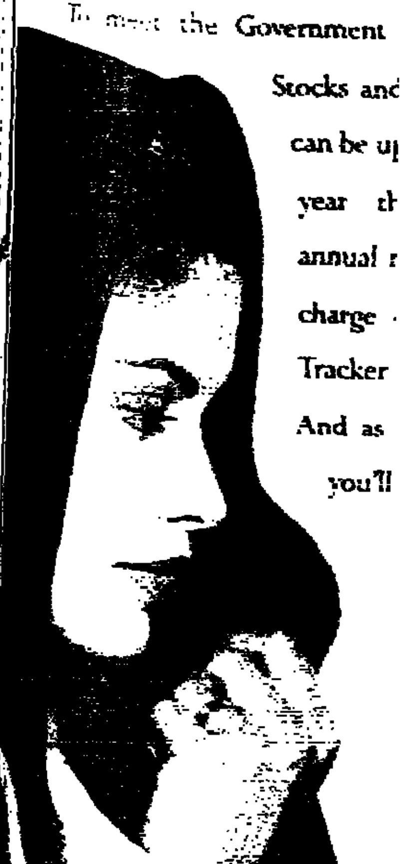
Support for the Government over Kosovo is lowest in Scotland, where the net balance in favour is plus 15 points compared with plus 37 points in southeast England outside London.

Support for the Government is higher among 45 to 64-year-olds, but relatively lower among 35 to 44-year-olds and those aged over 65. Satisfaction with the Government has improved over the past month by three points to 50 per cent, with dissatisfaction dropping by four points to 37 per cent.

A total of 1,072 adults were interviewed by MORI about Kosovo between April 23 and 26.

LINKS

MORI's website is www.mori.com



Yugoslav draft dodgers fleeing to Italy

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN GIOIA DEL COLLE

SCORES of Yugoslav Army deserters are entering Italy illegally but hundreds of others are evidently being sent back to Slovenia and Croatia by Italian authorities already struggling to cope with the influx of refugees from Kosovo, police reported yesterday.

Most of the deserters and conscription dodgers cross the frontier in northern Italy either with the help of professional smugglers or on their own to seek refuge among the Serbian community of 6,000 people that has existed in the multi-ethnic port of Trieste for 200 years, official sources said.

The Italian news agency Ansa estimated that 50 young men had managed to take shelter in Trieste, while the National Refugee Office said it was aware of 15 young people who have arrived from Serbia and Montenegro.

A report in *Il Messaggero* put the number as high as 100, while Ansa reported that 200 others who tried to cross the frontier regularly at Gorizia and Trieste had been sent back.

Other Yugoslav deserters have been arriving in the southern region of Puglia among the thousands of ethnic Albanians whom smugglers have been ferrying to the Italian coast over the past week from Montenegro, authorities in the port of Bari say.

The lucky ones who make it are believed to be only a drop in the ocean of 50,000 Yugoslav people of military age trying to avoid the draft or desert, refugee agency sources in Trieste say. Not all those fleeing to Italy are young people. "I managed to escape from Belgrade with my wife and children a short time before the Nato bombs destroyed my home," Gradisa Jovanovic, 53, said from his bed in a hospital in the town of Scorrano in Otranto province where he was admitted with a cracked spine. He sustained the injury during a fall he had in the motor launch that left him at Frassanito, a sandy beach north of Otranto.

"Please do not separate me from my family," he told *La Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno*, speaking with difficulty. He made the journey with his wife Dergina, 41, and his five children ranged in age from 28-year-old Dragutin to one-year-old Rada.

Also dropped on the beach was Afdzib Giulanovic, 46, who is quoted as saying he escaped from the Montenegran capital of Podgorica to evade military call-up. He was among 67 people described as Yugoslavs who arrived on the beach.

In the northern city of Gorizia official sources announced that a Serb army officer, Captain Petil, is being held under protective guard. "I am not a Kosovan," he said. "I am deserter from the Yugoslav Army."

Another refugee told state television: "I am 20. They sent me to fight. Milosevic wants to enrol young people to send to Kosovo to kill. I don't want to kill anyone. I am good-hearted."

EPA/VASSIL DONEV



A Bulgarian man sifts through the debris of a house hit by a stray Nato missile in Gorna Bania, a suburb on the western outskirts of Sofia

200 feared dead in latest massacre

Aid workers see signs of final purge by Serbs forces in Kosovo, writes Charles Bremner in Brussels

REFUGEES flooding out of Kosovo yesterday reported shootings, rape and systematic brutality by Serbian forces as the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said that it was now sure that a massacre had taken place earlier this week.

Investigators collected testimony from traumatised ethnic Albanians who told of masked paramilitaries driving them out of villages, raping women and rounding up men, some of whom were shot on the spot.

Aid workers handling the latest exodus into Albania and Macedonia speculated that Serbian forces could be engaged in a "final push" to flush the remaining Albanians from the province. In the worst reported incident, confirmed by the UNHCR, between 100 and 200 men were taken from a column of refugees near the village of Meja, west of Dakovica in southern Kosovo on Tuesday.

They were made to kneel with their hands behind their heads. Gunfire was heard and a later column of refugees reported finding the road strewn with dozens of bodies.

The UNHCR, which is always cautious about reports of killings, said the accounts suggested one of the worst atrocities in the Kosovo conflict. Jacques Franquin, a UNHCR spokesman in Albania, said yesterday there were enough concordant accounts of the incident from refugees to use the word massacre.

"This is the first time that the term massacre has been used. Until now the UNHCR restricted itself to talking of killings," he said.

The Yugoslav war crimes tribunal in the Hague is seeking to identify those responsible.

Prince Alexander: "The bombing is wrong"

Prince attacks 'video game US'

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

THE head of Yugoslavia's exiled royal family, Crown Prince Alexander Karadjordjevic, appealed yesterday to Nato to stop "playing its Nintendo games" with the lives of Yugoslav civilians.

He said that all the attacks had done was to maintain a hated dictator in power at the expense of prospects for Yugoslav democracy. In Athens for a brief visit, Prince Alexander made the latest of his appeals for an end to the conflict, this time criticising the United States for carrying out hostilities with a video game mentality.

"They can go and play their Nintendo games somewhere else," he said. "I am against the bombing. It is totally wrong."

The prince repeated his vow to stay away from his homeland, where he claims he has "massive" support, as long as Slobodan Milosevic remained in power. The son and heir of King Peter II, who was deposed by Marshal Tito in 1946, the Prince made two exploratory visits to Belgrade in 1991 and 1992 to test pro-monarchist feeling.

Prince Alexander said that he envisioned a democratic Yugoslavia under his constitutional monarchy, although he agreed that the regional proclivity for intrigue, militated against that prospect.

BALKANS SUMMARY

New air target hit by Nato

Paris: Nato planes hit a build-up of Yugoslav air power at a military airport near the Montenegrin capital, Podgorica, Jean-Pierre Kelche, the French armed forces chief, said. There were three waves of attacks within 12 hours. *(Reuters)*

Protest strands supply lorries

Salonika: Dozens of Nato lorries were stranded in a vegetable market after protesters opposed to the allied airstrikes removed signs marking the road to Macedonia. *(AP)*

Bomb blow to Danube traffic

Vienna: Nato's bombing of the Danube has dealt a severe blow to shipping which may take years to overcome. Austria's largest shipping company, DDSG Cargo, said. *(Reuters)*

KLA fight on as town burns

Kamenica: KLA guerrillas and Serbian forces battled in western Kosovo with the region draped in smoke from fires around the town of Djakovica. *(Reuters)*

Saddam sends his support

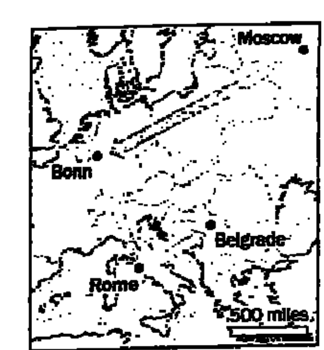
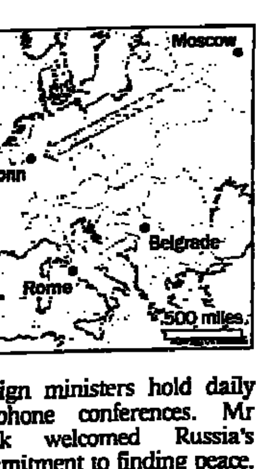
President Saddam Hussein of Iraq has sent a message of solidarity to President Milosevic, backing him in "the face of aggression".

Belgrade plea for UN justice

Belgrade: Yugoslavia will ask the UN to prosecute those responsible for the Nato bombing of President Milosevic's home, the Foreign Ministry said. *(AFP)*

Moscow raises the stakes in Belgrade

Chernomyrdin seeks solution in shuttle diplomacy writes **Michael Binyon**

RUSSIA will today make its biggest effort yet to get Slobodan Milosevic to back down over Kosovo, or face Nato airstrikes indefinitely.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, Russia's Kosovo negotiator, will outline the blunt choice to the Yugoslav President in Belgrade today. He will also tell him that Nato's core members are adamant that their forces must form the bulk of any peacekeeping force.

Making his second visit to Belgrade in a week, President Yeltsin's special envoy won strong backing for his latest mission from Germany and Italy, where he touched down for rapid talks yesterday. Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, said that he saw "movement towards a political solution". But he said airstrikes would be suspended *only after* a *verifiable* Serb withdrawal.

Britain and America played down hopes of a breakthrough. Strobe Talbott, the US Deputy Secretary of State, echoed Nato's demand to form the "core" of any international deployment in Kosovo, a condition that Russia does not support and that the Serbs reject. British officials, speaking before Mr Talbott flew in for talks with Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said that all Nato conditions had to be met before airstrikes could stop.

Mr Chernomyrdin said that he had concrete proposals to put to Mr Milosevic. His mission is crucial to Russia's attempt to play a bigger role in the Balkans. Before leaving Moscow, he had talks with Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, who also met President Yeltsin. Mr Yeltsin said the stakes were very high — "not just for the Balkans and Europe, but for the entire world".

Russia's hectic diplomacy has been given cautious backing by the five other members of the Contact Group, whose foreign ministers hold daily telephone conferences. Mr Cook welcomed Russia's commitment to finding peace. "Britain too wants peace," he said yesterday. "But not at any price. Certainly not at the expense of Milosevic's victims." He added: "Kosovo must be made safe for their return. That is our bottom line."

He suggested that Russia now accepted Nato's insistence on a heavily armed peacekeeping force in Kosovo, rather than lightly armed observers. "We are now getting down to the footnotes; the issues of principle have been resolved."

The sticking point is the composition of the peacekeeping force. Mr Chernomyrdin has told Western leaders that Belgrade would never accept forces from the countries now bombing the city. But Nato insists that this is non-negotiable. Whatever label is put on the force, it must, like the peacekeeping force in Bosnia, be run by Nato.

The pace of Russian diplomacy has quickened since Mr Chernomyrdin took over from Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister. But the power struggle in Moscow has led to confusion, with different signals coming from different quarters. Western diplomats said they were not getting full briefings on what the Russians were telling Mr Milosevic.

Britain yesterday emphasised the cracks in the Serbian leadership. Mr Cook challenged Belgrade to allow John Simpson, the BBC correspondent there, to transmit a "startlingly frank" interview with Vuk Obradovic, a former senior general and army spokesman, who called recently for Mr Milosevic to resign.

"We can assume that one of the brightest stars of the Yugoslav military elite would not have broken ranks alone," Mr Cook said. "How many of his former military comrades is he speaking for?"



AP/USAF

A 510th Fighter Squadron aircraft flying in support of Nato operations over Yugoslavia. The 510th is based with the US Air Force's 31st Air Expeditionary Wing at Aviano, Italy

Britain sends more bombers

Tornados and Harriers will soon join Nato air armada of 1,200 aircraft, reports **Michael Evans**

BRITAIN is to increase its RAF bomber strength for Nato's air operation by 40 per cent, with eight more Harriers and Tornados.

The decision was announced by George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, yesterday on a visit to Gioia del Colle in Italy. He later flew by helicopter to the Royal Navy aircraft carrier *HMS Invincible*, which has seven Sea Harriers operating over Yugoslavia.

With 12 Harrier GR7s already operating from Gioia del Colle and eight Tornado GR1s from RAF Brüggen in Germany, the total number of RAF combat aircraft engaged in airstrikes will be increased from 20 to 28. However, including the Sea Harriers carrying out combat air patrols over Yugoslavia, Britain's total fighter/bomber contribution will be 35.

The extra Harriers will come from RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire, and the Tornados are already based at Brüggen. An RAF spokesman, Group Captain Glenn Edge, confirmed that the Harriers will be deployed at Gioia del Colle. An extra RAF refueling tanker will also be sent to help to ensure that Nato can maintain a round-the-clock bombing campaign. The Tornados at Brüggen have a seven-hour round trip to targets in Yugoslavia and need several mid-air refueling stops.

The British reinforcements are the result of a request by General Wesley Clark, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander, who asked all alliance members to provide another 350 to 400 aircraft. America is expected to supply the majority. When the additional planes become operational, the Nato air armada will consist of about 1,200 aircraft.

Mr Robertson said: "Milosevic can now expect the air campaign to be far faster and far harder."

Votes rebuff for Clinton

By Ben Macintyre

THE US House of Representatives has refused to support airstrikes against Yugoslavia and challenged President Clinton's authority to wage a ground war, in two votes reflecting deep divisions in the US over whether and how to continue the Kosovo military operation.

A Democratic resolution supporting the Nato campaign failed to pass, with a tied vote of 213 to 213 late on Wednesday night, hours after the House voted to block funds for the deployment of ground troops in the region without prior congressional approval.

The votes will have little practical effect on America's role in the war because the White House has emphasised there are no plans to send in ground troops and Mr Clinton does not need House backing for airstrikes. But the rebuff to the President has taken leaders of both parties by surprise.

Township vigilante violence exposed on TV

From Ray Kennedy in Johannesburg

SCENES of youths stripped naked and tied to a lamp post being whipped after they were found guilty by a taxi drivers' kangaroo court of gang raping a girl have been shown on South African television.

The documentary was filmed by an investigative unit of the state-controlled South African Broadcasting Corporation in the sprawling mixed-race Coloured townships, on the Cape Flats outside Cape Town. It is an area notorious for its gang culture and drug dealing where police are engaged constantly in murderous battles between rival drug lords and their followers.

The SABC film was shown a week after the BBC screened a documentary of highway patrolmen in Johannesburg kicking and beating up car hijackers whom they had been arrested and who were lying handcuffed on the ground as they set a dog on them.

The BBC film was made in January and one of the men shown being assaulted died later in hospital. His accomplice was jailed for 15 years.

The gangs operate under names such as the Hard Livings, the Americans, the Mongrels, Cape Town Scorpions and The Firm.

A Muslim-based organisation, People Against Gangsterism And Drugs has been linked by the police to a series of bomb blasts including one on the Cape Town Waterfront development last year in which members of a British family on holiday were injured.

The kangaroo court that handed out the rough justice to suspected wrongdoers is indicative of the growing despair and fear among South Africans over the crime wave that has swept the country and the failure of the police and courts to deal with it.

Superintendent Vikus Holtshausen said yesterday that people in South Africa had had a bellyful of crime. "These kangaroo courts are taking place not just here but all over the country," he said.

"Although we urge people not to take the law into their own hands and hand suspects over to us, it is difficult to combat this sort of thing and be in the right place at the right time and stop it."

He added: "We realise that many people still do not trust us. There is still the apartheid legacy attached to the police service and we cannot change that overnight. Our job though is not to punish and you have to ask if Correctional Services are doing their jobs properly. Criminals do get caught and then they are let out on bail and the people are saying: 'Enough is enough'."

Eleven members of the highway patrol, including a woman officer, have been suspended and are facing criminal charges of assault with intent to do bodily harm. The Independent Complaints Directorate said it had been flooded with calls from victims of crime in support of the highway patrol officers since the BBC film was shown. "They say they would have done worse things if they had been in the policemen's shoes."



An alleged rapist after his beating in Cape Town



Television footage of punishment meted out by a Cape Town taxi drivers' kangaroo court on gang-rape suspects

'Aryan' gang faces justice

From Ian Brodie in Washington

CLOSING arguments began yesterday in the trial of two American white supremacists accused of murder and other crimes in their grimly forlorn efforts to foment revolution.

Chevie Kehoe and Danny Lee, both 26, face the death penalty if a jury of nine blacks and three whites finds them guilty in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The case has echoes of the Oklahoma City bombing and the white militia fringe groups living in the backwoods who were investigated after the arrest of Timothy McVeigh, the Oklahoma bomber.

Mr Kehoe and Mr Lee are accused of plotting to overthrow the federal Government to set up a whites-only nation in the Pacific Northwest, and of resorting to gun trafficking, armed robbery, bombings and murder to carry out their plan.

The pair were accused of a string of crimes that included bombing Spokane city hall in Washington State, a videotaped shoot-out with police in Ohio from which they escaped, the casual killing of two men in Idaho and drowning a white family of three in Arkansas.

The defence argued that the pair's revolutionary ambitions were no more than a hate-filled daydream. As one lawyer put it: "Without disrespect to the court or anyone else, if these boys were in charge of conspiring to overthrow the Government, we're all safe."

The court heard that the accused, who wore Nazi tattoos, hated Jews and blacks. They formed a small terrorist group called the Aryan People's Resistance.

The trial has lasted two months with a parade of more than 150 prosecution witnesses. They included Mr Kehoe's younger brother who took part in the shoot-out, grew weary of life on the run and surrendered to police, telling them where his brother could be found.

Clinton cancels sanctions on 'terrorist' states

Ian Brodie in Washington on revival of medical and food exports

IN A major policy shift, President Clinton has abandoned sanctions on the export of food and medicine to three countries that his Administration accuses of sponsoring international terrorism: Iran, Libya and Sudan.

Of these, Iran is by far the biggest and most significant. The move is the first gesture of support for Tehran's less rabidly anti-American regime.

With a population approaching 70 million, Iran offers a lucrative market for US farmers. An initial order for wheat and sugar worth more than $500 million (£310 million) is expected from Tehran soon, a welcome boost with wheat prices at their lowest for ten years.

Mr Clinton decided that food should not be used as a tool of foreign policy, except under the most compelling circumstances, his aides said. In fact, he was under tremendous political pressure from the powerful farm states to ease up on economic sanctions.

The Administration had concluded that unilateral sanctions on sales of food and medicine hurt people more than governments, said Stuart Eizenstat, Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs. An argument frequently heard on Capitol Hill is that "Saddam Hussein never missed a meal" because of sanctions. In addition to harming American farmers, sanctions did not help Washington's efforts to keep countries such as Iran from spending hard currency on weapons and terrorism, Mr Eizenstat said.

He also conceded that curbs on humanitarian goods were counterproductive because nations so punished used images of suffering innocents to portray the US as vindictive. The new policy will make a general exemption for food and medicine whenever trade sanctions are imposed on countries by America in future.

The change does not directly affect Cuba, Iraq and North Korea — all considered "rogue" states — because American companies are already allowed to conduct some trade with them in food, medicine and other supplies. Iraq is already purchasing food and medicine under a United Nations oil-for-food programme.

The new gesture could be seen as reward to Libya for handing over the Pan Am flight 103 bombing suspects, but little trade is at stake. Nor is it with Sudan.

But Iran was the largest market for American rice and one of the largest for wheat at the time of the revolution that overthrew the Shah and led to the seizure of the American Embassy staff for 444 days. Iran now imports wheat worth over $1 billion a year from other markets.

Since the election two years ago of President Khatami there has been a tempering of rhetoric between America and Iran, though each has reacted cautiously to any concrete improvement in ties.

Terrorist training camps in Iran remain a stumbling block for Washington.

LEADER'S FIGHT

Nicosia: Opponents of Muhammad Khatami, Iran's moderate President, have intensified their push to undermine him (Michael Theodoulou writes). Calls have been made for the jailing of Gholamhossein Karbaschi, one of his allies, for corruption, and the impeachment of Ataollah Mohajerani, his Culture Minister.

KARIM SAHIB / AFP



Saddam feted as Babylonian king

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THIS mural depicting President Saddam Hussein as Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, taking on 20th-century American foes, has been unveiled during a week-long celebration marking the Iraqi dictator's 62nd birthday.

The regime has also inaugurated a multimillion-pound dam and lakeside resort as part of the celebrations. But defiance was the keynote of orchestrated mass parades across the impoverished country as Saddam demonstrated the resilience of his regime in the face of economic sanctions and a war of attrition by US and British military aircraft. "With your birth Iraq was reborn," read one of the many banners. However, the security-conscious President did not venture out in person to greet the crowds bussed in to wish him a long life at the new resort, named Saddam's Thar Thar City, or at the Great Dam on a tributary of the Tigris river. He celebrated his birthday on Wednesday evening surrounded by children from all over Iraq, according to the state-run news agency.

Displays of devotion failed to camouflage jitters felt by the regime, which is facing growing unrest. Travellers from Iraq say opposition to Saddam's rule has increased significantly since he was blamed for the assassination of a leading Shia cleric and his two sons in February.

Dinosaur sheds light on continental drift

Bones help to date Europe-US split, Alison Roberts in Lisbon reports

THE remains of a dinosaur unearthed in Portugal as long ago as 1988 have now supplied new evidence on when the Eurasian and American land masses separated.

The fossilised bones, found near the town of Pombal, in central Portugal, show the animal to have been identical to numerous specimens of *Allosaurus fragilis* which have been dug up in the US.

The fact that the Portuguese fossils date from between 135 and 150 million years ago proves that the land masses that are now Europe and the Americas broke apart more recently than thought.

It is known that Pangea, as scientists call the giant continent that the two land masses once formed part of, started to break up about 250 million years ago. What is not known is when they separated completely.

"This is a very important find because it identifies a species that is common to Portugal and the US," Galopin de Carvalho, director of the National Museum of Natural History in Lisbon, said. "That shows that the community of animals was the same — that there couldn't be just sea between the land masses."

The reason for the delay in *identifying the find, he said*, was lack of money. The museum was gutted by fire 20 years ago and the Portuguese state did not provide the money to reconstruct it fully or make possible serious research.

The team that identified the fossils was led by a Spaniard, Bernadino Pérez Moreno, of the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, and included Americans as well as Portuguese scientists. Their findings are to be published in the May edition of the *Journal of the Geological Society of London*.

The species was named in 1877 by the celebrated American palaeontologist Othniel C. Marsh, who worked with material discovered in rocks from the Upper Jurassic period in the Morrison Formation in Colorado. Further specimens have since been found in Montana, Oklahoma, Utah and Wyoming.

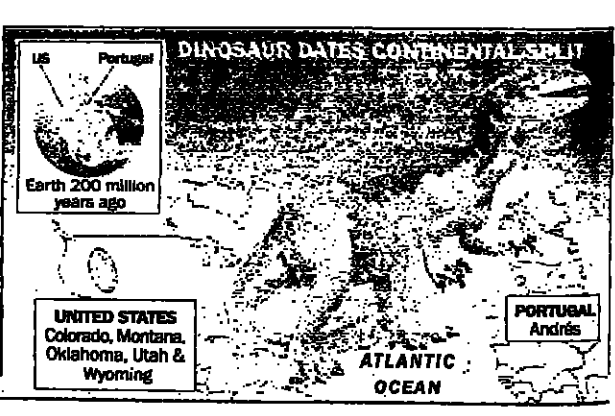
Allosaurus fragilis grew to about 12 metres in length and weighed 1.5 to 2 tonnes. It was one of the largest carnivorous dinosaurs of the Upper Jurassic period to have roamed what is now the American West.

The Portuguese find includes fragments of a cranium, several vertebrae, and a large part of the dinosaur's pelvic bones.

They were discovered on private land in the village of Andrés, near Pombal. The landowner promptly notified the Museum of Natural History, but it took a further decade to complete the work of identification.

This is the second time that Portugal has hit the palaeontological headlines in recent years. A unique clutch of fossilised dinosaur eggs, some containing embryos, was found in 1996 near Lourinhã, just north of Lisbon.

The Museum of Natural History is lobbying the Government to transfer the eggs from the local museum to the capital. After the latest findings, Portuguese scientists are hoping for new funds for research to date the fossils more precisely.



Sharon sleaze scandal

Christopher Walker reports on blow for Netanyahu

ISRAEL'S election on May 17 was in danger of being overshadowed by sleaze yesterday as Israel Radio reported that one senior minister may face a fraud charge and a leading candidate compared his bribery conviction to the trial of Adolf Eichmann, the Nazi war criminal.

The radio said that Ariel Sharon, the Foreign Minister and a key ally of Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, had been recommended for indictment by the police on bribery and fraud charges.

The police had no comment on the report. Mr Sharon's office said that it had not been informed officially of the move but that it hoped to clear the matter up before polling day. Officers had questioned Mr Sharon, architect of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, about a trip to Russia he made as National Infrastructure Minister in 1997 with Avigdor Ben-Gal, a businessman and retired major-general.

Suspicions that Mr Sharon, 70, tried to help the retired officer to clinch a multimillion-dollar natural gas deal with Russia in exchange for false evidence from Mr Ben-Gal in a libel action brought by Mr Sharon against a Tel Aviv newspaper are being investigated. The radio said that the police had also recommended indicting Mr Ben-Gal.

Mr Sharon and Mr Ben-Gal deny any wrongdoing. "Minister Sharon insists that the state attorney complete the investigation before the elections and has directed his lawyers to see to that," Raanan Gissin, Mr Sharon's spokesman, said.

Earlier, Israeli politicians reacted angrily on hearing that Aryeh Deri, the coalition kingmaker, was planning to distribute thousands of election videos comparing his bribery conviction to the trial of Eichmann in the 1960s.

The video, made in response to the recent sentencing of Deri to four years in prison, threatened to deepen already dangerous social divisions between Jews of Ashkenazi, or European, origin and those of Sephardi, or Oriental, background. The latter traditionally have formed the underclass.

Deri, 40, who is still leading the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, the third largest in terms of Knesset seats, while awaiting the result of an appeal, used the video to depict his conviction as caused by Ashkenazi prejudice and to accuse them of leading Sephardi youth to crime and drugs.

In a section that prompted rare unity among most of the 33 parties competing in the election as well as action by officials to see whether criminal proceedings could begin, Deri compared the broadcast of the verdict in his Jerusalem District Court trial to the verdicts in the cases of Eichmann and John Demjanjuk.

Eichmann masterminded the Nazi genocide and was tried in Israel after being kidnapped by Mossad for a trial that gripped the world; Mr Demjanjuk, was a US citizen convicted of killing Jews in a Nazi death camp under the nickname of "Ivan The Terrible". He was acquitted later by Israel's Supreme Court.

هكذا من الاصل

Boy runs up $3m shopping bill

James Bone in New York reports on the 13-year-old who could not stop bidding on Internet auction site

ANDREW TYLER'S mother started hyperventilating when she received the bill for her teenager's Internet shopping spree.

The 13-year-old computer buff from New Jersey bid nearly $3 million (£1.8 million) on eBay, an Internet auction site, and won the bidding for five items, including two vintage cars and a $400,000 antique bed once owned by Canada's first Prime Minister. "I'm in big trouble," the chastened teen acknowledged.

Andrew began his bidding frenzy when he unsuccessfully tried to sell his best friend as a slave, stating that "he's ugly and he smells" but "he will work very well".

The bidding started at only $1, but still Andrew found no takers and he quickly became a bidder for other items.

Over the next three weeks, he bid a total of $2.8 million for 13 items, including $1.2 million for a medical centre in Florida, $500,000 for a Van Gogh painting and $120,000 for the first issue of the Superman comic book.

The five bids that succeeded included $23,000 for a 1955 Ford convertible and $24,500 for a Corvette sports car, as well as the $900,000 he offered for an 1860s bed once owned by Sir John MacDonald, the father of Canada's confederation. The historic bed had been listed for sale on eBay since April 15 but had attracted bids up to only $12,000. Andrew's bid was the first to meet the seller's reserve price of $400,000 and won the contest comfortably.

Under eBay's normal bidding procedures, the purchaser must pay the reserve price only if he is the only bidder to exceed that level — and now the bed's seller wants his money.

"Somebody owes me $400,000," said Aubrey Garrett of the Internet Auction House in Kingston, Canada, who listed the bed for sale on eBay and says he was charged $5,000 commission when the sale went through.

The site, which forbids minors from participating in auctions but does not ask for any proof of age, has banned Andrew as a "deadbeat bidder" and cancelled the account he was using.

The company said that the boy's parents had an account and that the Andrew may have used their password to make his online purchases. But Mr Garrett said he had learnt that the account was listed in the teenager's name.

Mr Garrett called the boy's mother, Ingrid, to ask for payment. "I said that he bought a $400,000 bedroom suite, and she said, 'I'm hyperventilating.'" The antiques dealer also spoke to Andrew himself, who told him: "I spend a lot of time alone."

"You put a kid alone on the Internet and this is going to happen," Mr Garrett said. He is now considering filing a suit against eBay, which came under scrutiny earlier this year after the sale of allegedly fake sporting memorabilia.

Analysts, however, doubt that the dispute will put a significant dent in the Internet company's high-flying stock market performance.

It has become an Internet darling by bringing together millions of individual buyers and sellers to trade online. But the company has been called "the bellwether stock of the Internet bubble" after rising as high as $234 a share on Tuesday, up from $137 in late March.

Analysts said yesterday that even negative publicity about the site could only fuel public interest in online auctions and drive the shares higher.



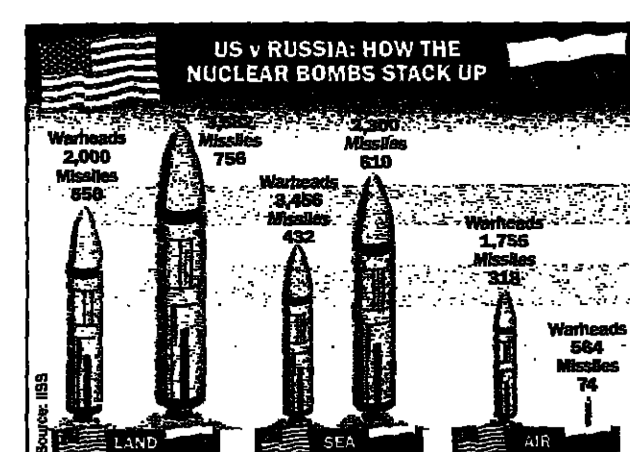
www.ebay.com An auction house for anything from antiques to toys
www.webcharity.com A virtual thrift shop (where items can be donated). Sale proceeds go to charity
www.numismatists.com Interactive coin auctions and collecting information



MARK YODOFSKY

Andrew Tyler concedes he is in "big trouble" with his mother after his spending spree

Moscow warns Nato of nuclear build-up



Sabre-rattling against West has intensified, writes **Anna Blundy**

RUSSIA yesterday fired a warning shot at Nato when President Yeltsin approved plans to develop and deploy tactical as well as strategic nuclear weapons.

As the Kremlin sought to negotiate an end to the war in Kosovo, the Russian leader put the West on notice that Moscow plans to maintain and upgrade the nuclear arsenal it inherited from the Soviet Union.

Last month the authorities retracted a threat made in parliament to re-target Russia's nuclear warheads at Western cities. Nevertheless, the Kremlin is aware that its standing on the international stage depends largely on maintaining its nuclear might.

The matters discussed at yesterday's closed meeting were so sensitive that the strategic forces commander and many of the President's most senior aides were banished from the room. Although Nato was not mentioned by name, Igor Sergeyev, the Defence Minister, had announced earlier in the week that Russia would need to review both its conventional and nuclear capabilities. Russian newspaper reports interpreted this as meaning that the presidential security council meeting would focus on extending the lifespan of Soviet-era nuclear weapons, but Mr Yeltsin was keen to emphasise development.

"We will examine the state and prospects for developing Russia's nuclear weapons complex," the President announced. Experts agree that any development of tactical weapons would take upwards of a decade and few realistically expect that the resources needed for that kind of project could be found.

"I doubt that any nuclear tests or new developments will take place," wrote Leonid Radzikhovsky in *Segodnya*. "They are just trying to scare the West. It is a bluff against the background of the hysteria over Yugoslavia." By showing off its nuclear capability Russia is underlining the real potential behind its continued anti-Nato sabre-rattling.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Commonwealth to readmit Nigeria

A Commonwealth working group has recommended that Nigeria be readmitted to full membership on May 29, when a democratically elected president takes over from the military government (Michael Binyon writes). Foreign ministers meeting in London called for lifting of the suspension imposed in 1995 after the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and other Ogoni activists. Since the death of the military dictator, General Sani Abacha, sanctions have been progressively eased; the European Union has lifted all but military restrictions. General Abdulsalami Abubakar, the current ruler, will end 15 years of military rule by handing over to Olusegun Obansajo, the former general elected President.

Dili massacre threat

Sydney: A paramilitary group is planning to massacre supporters of East Timorese independence at the weekend, Amnesty International said. A document from the "Red Blood Commando" being circulated in Dili said that the group would evacuate integrationists from the capital on Friday night, then "exterminate and wipe out" anyone left in the city, Amnesty said. Pro-Indonesian militias have killed dozens of East Timorese in recent weeks. *(Reuters)*

Call to oust Mahathir



Manila: The wife of Malaysia's jailed former Finance Minister said the hold on power by Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohammed was slipping fast, but she wanted him voted out of office rather than ousted violently. On a visit here, Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, right, wife of Anwar Ibrahim, described Dr Mahathir as "a once-respected Prime Minister who has lost all sense of perspective and all sense of right and wrong". *(Reuters)*

School murder plot

New York: Five 13-year-old boys have been charged with conspiracy for drawing up a hit list and plotting to bomb the McKinley Junior High School in Brooklyn. Police said that officers had recovered notes on how to make a bomb and a handwritten list of who was to be killed. Threats of bombs and shootings have plagued American schools since last week's massacre at the Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. *(Reuters)*

'Road rage' killing

Chicago: Police charged a man with murder after he allegedly ran down a cyclist in a fit of "road rage". Witnesses told police that the cyclist, Thomas McBride, 28, had pounded on the side of Carnell Fitzpatrick's car after the driver cut him up. They said that Mr Fitzpatrick allowed Mr McBride to pass him, then rammed his bicycle several times. When Mr McBride fell off, officers alleged, Mr Fitzpatrick, also 28, drove over him and sped away. *(AP)*

SIX OF THE BEST

Trays

ORANGES, £41.75
Vivid background of oranges and fuchsia – not for the faint-hearted.
Graham & Green, 7 Elgin Crescent W11 (0171-727 4594)
8/10

SQUARE, £49
Square tray in two-tone wood with a curved frame that will appeal to minimalists.
Conran, 81 Fulham Road SW3 (0171-589 7401)
7/10

METAL, £18
Brushed-aluminium tray with wire edges. Cool and modern.
Barkers and selected House of Fraser stores (0171-963 2236)
9/10

ARTICHOKE, £27.50
Intriguing combination of still-life photography and strong colours.
Ella Doran mail order (0171-375 1466)
10/10

CHECK, £20
Plastic tray in pale-blue check. Simple fresh design for summer lunch in the garden.
Barkers and selected House of Fraser stores (0171-963 2590)
7/10

WOODEN, £20
Extra large wooden tray with sculpted metal handles. Beautifully designed and well priced.
Marks & Spencer nationwide (0171-935 4422)
10/10

COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

Objects of desire

■ Delicate rose-buds adorn almost everything in Cath Kidston's range for Debenhams. From soft bath and hand towels (£8) to dressing gowns (£40), hangers (£5) and pillows (£15). All from Debenhams stores nationwide (0171-408 4444).

■ Top New York hair salon Bumble and Bumble have put together a hair accessory pouch filled with two metal combs, snag-free hair elastics, hair slides and the obligatory bra band, £19.95 (01768 895505).

Canteen culture

CUTTING EDGE
JANE SHILLING

The other day I managed, somehow or other, to set fire to a brace of knives. There they were, lying next to the cooker, ready to be taken over to the supper table, when I turned on the gas — and whoomph!

It is just as well that I am not a superstitious girl because I bet some horrible fate — far worse than seven years' bad luck — traditionally lies in wait for people silly enough to set fire to more than one knife at a time.

This sort of little catastrophe happens quite a lot in our house. Every so often, brimming glasses of wine make their way purposefully to the edge of the table and fling themselves off. Dinner plates sidle up to the edge of the draining board and allow themselves to fall suicidally on to the limestone tiles below.

Occasionally I find myself cast in the role of involuntary executioner. "If you put that dish down there," a little interior voice murmurs, "it will fall and shatter, and you will regret it for ever afterwards." Invariably I go and do exactly what my subconscious voice has warned me against.

Not six months ago a particularly pretty plate decorated with a charming sketch by Sir Hugh Casson, of a harbour and fishing boats, came to grief in this fashion. I am mourning it still.

For a long time I used to explain these small domestic tragedies to myself as the work of a minor-league poltergeist — mischievous rather than malevolent, I thought. But lately I have begun to admit that they are probably my own fault. I am rather clumsy, and easily distracted, and since advancing age is probably not going to improve matters, the only thing is to make the best of it.

Take the knives, for example. They were perfectly hideous, with imitation-bone handles and impossible-to-clean steel blades. I knew they were a mistake the moment I bought them and only thrift has kept me from replacing them before now. Their unexpected immolation is a blessing, barely disguised. Now I shall go and get myself some proper cutlery, replacing, while I'm at it, the fussy Victorian King pattern silver spoons and forks that have been irritating me ever since I got them.

If I were getting married, or had come into an inheritance and felt sure enough of my taste to spend a chunk of it, I might head for Peter Jones, where a 60-piece canteen of Old English cutlery — a satisfyingly heavy, classic rat-tail design in sterling silver, which handles beautifully and whose looks will improve steadily with age — costs £2,350.

Greenwich, a slightly more modern design with gently squared-off chisel handles, costs the same. If your tastes run to something less austere, Rubans, by Christofle, a substantial, traditional design with a moulded ribbon border and a small bow detail, is feminine without being too fussy, and costs from £30 a piece for silver plate, or £62 for gold plate at the General Trading Company. The GTC also stocks horn egg spoons, £28 for a set of six or £138 for a set of six with silver filigree handles, and mother-of-pearl salt spoons, £6 each.

If you don't want to make this kind of once-in-a-lifetime investment, Barker's has an elegant range of mid-priced designs in polished stainless steel from *David Mellor, Villeroy & Boch and* Boda Nova, reduced by around 25 per cent in the mid-season sale, which lasts until Monday. David Mellor's Odeon — an elongated, Art Deco-inspired look — and Doris, a curvaceous style with teardrop handles, cost around £15 a piece at full price.

Boda Nova's extraordinary, wriggly Ibis design looks more like a series of small abstract sculptures than eating implements but is surprisingly comfortable to use, very striking and excellent value at about £8.50 a piece.

Villeroy & Boch's etiolated Toscana and Conte designs are about £72 for a seven-piece place setting. At Peter Jones, Wrap is an interesting rustic design with tubular handles in a matt, blackened metal finish, from £4.95 a piece.

Cheaper still, and very good value, is resin-handled cutlery in a vast range of imaginative styles and colours. Boxed sets from Peter Jones, with handles in translucent jade, sky blue or clear resin, are £59 for 26 pieces, including two large serving spoons.

At Urban Outfitters, a four-piece set with imitation bamboo handles costs £10, or if you feel that is too kitsch, Inventory's Pinocchio design has light wood handles and costs £69.95 for a boxed set. Perla, with mother-of-pearl-effect handles in white, jade or sapphire, is £49.95 for a boxed set, also from Inventory.

Peter Jones has a slightly more sophisticated version of this look, with imitation ivory, malachite or lapis-handled cutlery from £2.75 a piece. Handsome though this semi-precious effect undoubtedly is — the sort of thing that Catherine the Great, had she been economising, might have chosen to match her suite of malachite-lined rooms at the Hermitage — it is perhaps a shade grand for the simple, delicious meals that one likes to imagine one may spend summer evenings consuming out of doors, seated in the shade of a jasmine arbour, the table lit with little coloured glass lanterns like something from *Le Grand Meaulnes*.

It had not occurred to me until now that one might have different sets of cutlery for summer and winter. But actually — why not?

The perfect thing for a summer supper table is Nina Campbell's resin-handled cutlery, as crisp as freshly ironed linen, with a cornflower-blue toile de Jouy pattern and, from £7 a piece, hardly an extravagance at all.

ROBERT HARDING

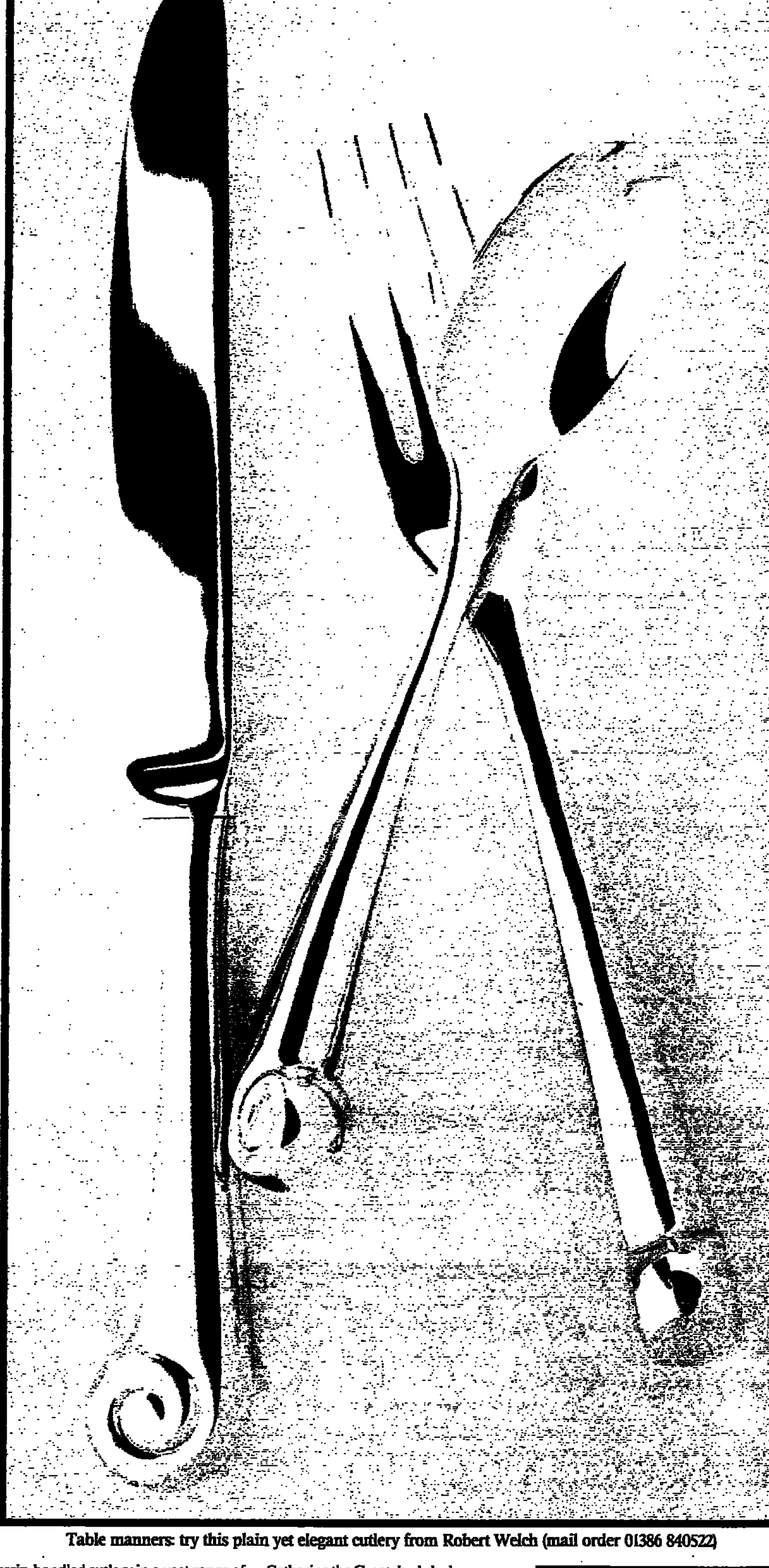


Table manners: try this plain yet elegant cutlery from Robert Welch (mail order 01386 840522)



HOT TIP

At last, incense sticks that don't fall over or leave a trail of ash. Crabtree & Evelyn's version come in a glass phial with a base to keep the stick in place. Available in various aromatherapy scents, £8.95, at all leading stores (0171-603 1611).



GEORGE WALDEN: MEMOIRS OF AN ANTI-POLITICIAN

John's sensitivity was painful

In the final extract from his memoirs, **George Walden** dissects three giants of new Labour

NOW that I was out of Government I found myself observing the Commons with a more objective eye. It was then that I became aware of the single most striking fact about the British Parliament. Labour MPs, on average, are shorter than Conservatives.

When I tested my theory semi-seriously on a couple of colleagues and journalists, they either laughed it off or, more commonly, found something of sudden and compelling interest over my shoulder. The reason for their unease was not hard to seek: the idea of Tory giants lording it over Labour Hottentots upset that morbidly sensitive piece of equipment, the English social conscience. Such speculations seemed indelicate, but then the truth is normally in the poorest taste. It is strange how, as a nation, we lament the influence of class on our attitudes and thinking and yet, faced with incontrovertible evidence of its persistence, we deny it vehemently.

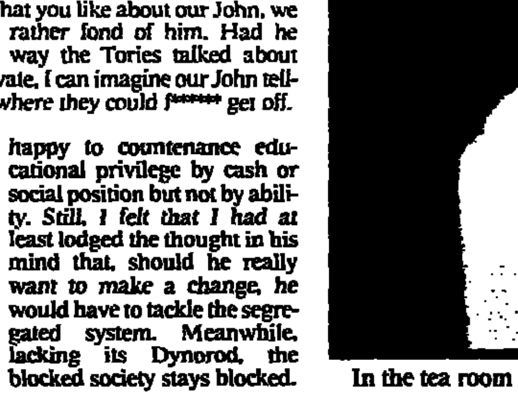
Fortunately things are not standing still, and I would not mind betting that new Labour members are, by and large, a centimetre up on their old Labour colleagues. At this rate of progress we can look forward, a couple of elections from now, physically at least, to a fully modernised Parliament.

JOHN PRESCOTT

A conversation with John Prescott reminded me of another touchy area of parliamentary life, on which there is scarcely any public commentary: the relative intelligence of Tory and Labour MPs. Prescott, who seemed to me indubitably bright when you could make out what he was saying, struck me as a fine example of how difficult it is to decide the issue. After he made a disparaging remark about teachers I suggested, only half joking, that he should get himself made Opposition spokesman on education, meaning that it was a post where his rumbustious common sense could be usefully exploited. When he spluttered into his drink, as if about to explode, I thought, oh Christ, he thinks I'm laughing at him, he's going to call me a condescending bastard. Instead he launched into a tirade against himself.

"You don't f****** know the f****** half of it. Every f****** letter I write I have to get the secretary to check the f****** grammar. Every time I get up in the House I can see you f****** Tories smirking at every word I say. It doesn't make it any easier. Of course I can't f****** speak and write properly. No one ever taught me."

His sensitivity was as painful as his honesty was touching. The Tories did laugh at Prescott's linguistic muddles. But if their laughter in the chamber annoyed him, he should have heard them in the tea room. They didn't tease him there, or criticise his politics, they did something worse: killed him stone dead with their condescension. Dear old John, the salt of the earth, our John, the kind of rough diamond Parliament would be lost without. Yes, say what you like about our John, we are really rather fond of him. Had he heard the way the Tories talked about him in private, I can imagine our John telling them where they could f****** get off.





JEREMY YOUNG

In the tea room the Tories didn't tease John Prescott or criticise his politics, they killed him with their condescension

TONY BLAIR

TOWARDS the end of my time in Parliament I went to see Tony Blair. Such are the conventions of the Commons that it felt strange walking along the Opposition corridor to his room. Whips and defectors aside, the path to his office was infrequently trodden by Tory shoes. Fewer eyebrows would have been raised if I had called on Kim Il Sung or Saddam Hussein, but I had written to Blair about education, he suggested we have a talk, so I went.

Alan Howarth had recently defected and I suppose Blair may have thought that one more Conservative was coming across. Though I admired what he had done to bring his party into the 20th century before it was over, and knew and respected a number of his team, such as Jack Straw and Donald Dewar, switching to Labour, and exchanging one tribe for another, had never entered my mind.

My reason for writing to him was a final attempt to crash the political barriers on education, which to my eyes should be more of a cross-party affair, and to give a little publicity to my ideas for overcoming the great divide between private and state schools. There are few times in your life — at least in mine — when you are convinced that you are right about the need for a certain course of action, and I felt strongly that one day something on the lines I was suggesting would have to be done. One day. Meanwhile, I had a horror of becoming a single-issue fanatic, and of boring myself and others silly on a subject few people in Parliament or the press wanted to know about, and where it was hard to foresee action. It was one of the many reasons I had decided to leave the Commons. But before I went I might just as well have a go at putting my thoughts to Tony Blair.

Long, smooth Tony lay draped across an armchair in his office. If ever a man was waiting in the wings, this was one: he was Prime Minister-designate and he knew it. We agreed that I would make known the fact of our meeting to the press (I wanted to scotch any rumours of defection), but that I would not divulge the contents. The undertaking was not hard to fulfil: Blair made no newsworthy remarks. What could he have said? He was perfectly aware of the problem — and of the political difficulties of even hinting that he was thinking about solutions.

I left no wiser than when I arrived. Even if he wanted to do something, new Labour was boxed in. Quite apart from the threat to middle-class droits acquis, any mention of opening up private schools on the basis of merit and the Left of his party would froth at the mouth about selection. They are happy to countenance educational privilege by cash or social position but not by ability. Still, I felt that I had at least lodged the thought in his mind that, should he really want to make a change, he would have to tackle the segregated system. Meanwhile, lacking its Dynorod, the blocked society stays blocked.

JACK STRAW

ONE man with whom you could have a grown-up talk was Jack Straw, an energetic fellow with sound instincts (to agree with me privately on aspects of education, he must be sound) who was driven to distraction by years of trundling through the lobbies to absolutely no effect: "You lot get fed up just hanging about. But can you imagine what it's like to lose every time?" No wonder he's put his heart and soul into new Labour.

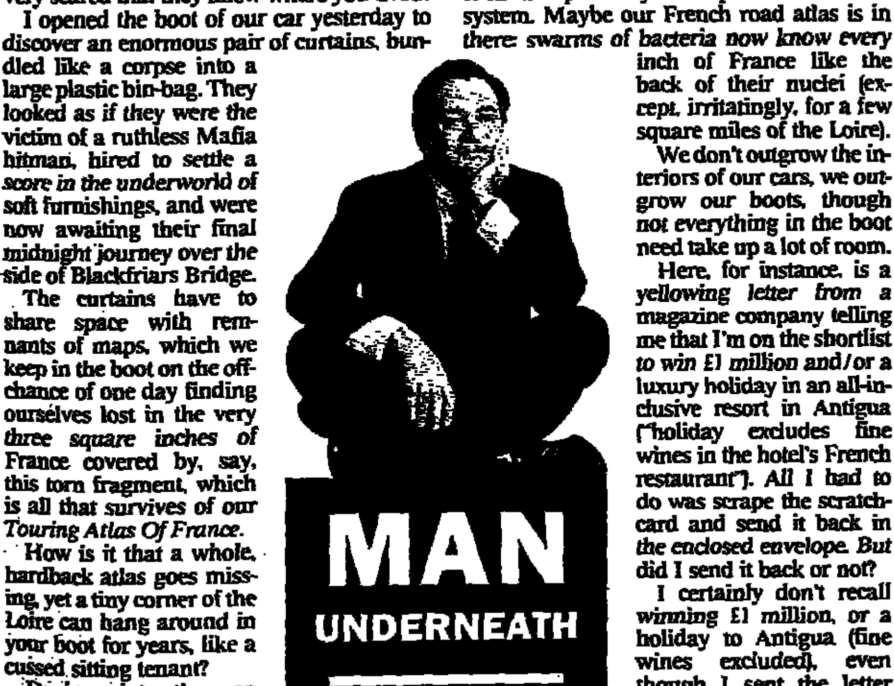
● *Extracted from* Lucky George *by George Walden, published by Penguin on May 6, £17.99, available to readers for £15, free p&p, from* The Times *Bookshop, 0990 134459*

Boot cramp

My advice to those of you who are planning to drive off somewhere for the long weekend is to travel light. This is the surest way of not having to open your boot to put in a suitcase and finding that ... Whoah! How did that get in there!

Don't you sometimes wonder just how all those mysterious objects have found their way into your boot, when (a) you're certain they don't belong to you, and (b) if you ever met the person they did belong to, you'd be very scared that they knew where you lived?

I opened the boot of our car yesterday to discover an enormous pair of curtains, bundled like a corpse into a large plastic bin-bag. They looked as if they were the victim of a ruthless Mafia hitman, hired to settle a score in the underworld of soft furnishings, and were now awaiting their final midnight journey over the side of Blackfriars Bridge.







The curtains have to share space with remnants of maps, which we keep in the boot on the off-chance of one day finding ourselves lost in the very three square inches of France covered by, say, this torn fragment, which is all that survives of our *Touring Atlas Of France*.

How is it that a whole, hardback atlas goes missing, yet a tiny corner of the Loire can hang around in your boot for years, like a cussed sitting tenant?

During winter the map fragment hibernates under an empty green petrol can which we carry around religiously, even though it has lost its screw-on nozzle, which effectively makes it useless if we were ever to run out of petrol on a remote country lane. A sane person would have thrown it away years ago. On those occasions when the boot is packed to the hilt with luggage, we take the petrol can indoors, always remembering to replace it in the boot at the earliest opportunity, so that it can resume its purposeless, Beckettian existence.

There are also plenty of wellington boots, but — unfathomably — no matching pairs.

Because we have no obvious use in London for the three long fishing nets we bought in Brittany four summers ago for a rock-pooling expedition, they, too, live in the car boot: ignored and unloved. It's no life, really.

Next to the umbrella — whose spokes snapped like grissini in a howling storm the winter before last, making it less effective as a rain shield than a sweet wrapper (of which we also keep emergency supplies in our boot) — stands a black, knotted bin-bag.

This bag is full of — actually nobody can remember what it's full of exactly. We believe it to contain those stray items that had accumulated in the boot prior to its last valeting, when the man at the garage must have tidied all the junk he found in the boot into this bin-bag. Inside, in airtight temperatures nudging 220C, the bag's undisturbed contents have probably developed their own ecosystem. Maybe our French road atlas is in there: swarms of bacteria now know every inch of France like the back of their nuclei (except, irritatingly, for a few square miles of the Loire).

We don't outgrow the interiors of our cars, we outgrow our boots, though not everything in the boot need take up a lot of room.

Here, for instance, is a yellowing letter from a magazine company telling me that I'm on the shortlist to win £1 million and/or a luxury holiday in an all-inclusive resort in Antigua ("holiday excludes fine wines in the hotel's French restaurant"). All I had to do was scrape the scratchcard and send it back in the enclosed envelope. But did I send it back or not?

I certainly don't recall winning £1 million, or a holiday to Antigua (fine wines excluded), even though I sent the letter back in the "No" envelope.

I'm assuming this last bit, but only because I haven't been receiving regular copies of this magazine in my mail: this would suggest that I didn't take up the subscription offer. I must have held firm on this point because there was a mystery prize if you not only sent the form back in the "Yes" envelope, but also sent it back within five days. The other possibility is that I did receive the mystery prize and I didn't realise whom it was from, having clearly forgotten all about the original letter: maybe the curtains are the mystery prize.

But I know that were I to throw this scrap of paper away, the reason for its residence in the boot would become apparent the very next day, and then I would just feel foolish.

Why expose myself to ridicule by discarding a slip of paper that's not taking up much room in the boot? Not compared with the blue crocheted dog blanket, at any rate. And the best bit of it is, we don't even own a dog.



United by a common hatred

James Heartfield explains why Britain needs neo-Nazis

Could another race war be looming? Bombs are going off in Britain's immigrant communities. Stephen Lawrence's killers still walk the streets. In America teenagers celebrate the birthday of Hitler by slaughtering their classmates. And when Oona King, MP for Tower Hamlets, received hate mail from the extremist group, the White Wolves, threatening a millennial bloodbath of all non-whites, it only added to widespread suspicions that a Fascist movement might be growing again.

With the threat of more nail bombs hanging over the country no one can afford to be complacent. But the background to these events is not the resurgence of the far Right. It is its collapse. In 1980 the British National Party and the National Front regularly occupied Brick Lane, lining up on either side of the market end on a Sunday. Their message then was that Brick Lane belonged to them and that they were not going to give it up to the Bengalis. Yet they did give it up, and you can be sure nobody will be selling Fascist newspapers there this weekend.

The police do not yet know who planted the nail bombs, but let us assume that it was one of the many far-Right groups that have claimed they were behind the attack. A descent into random bombings is a sign of these extremists' frustration at their declining influence. One Combat 18 document candidly admits: "The race war is not about to happen, so we must start it ourselves."

> The police are now cast as defenders of ethnic minorities

But instead of marking a resurgence of the far Right, the bombings are uniting the country in opposition to it. Ironically, Britain's fractious political culture is dependent on the threat of extremism to bind it together. The significance of the far Right in British politics is not the support that it gets from the public. This is minimal. Rather the role which the far Right plays is that of all-purpose bogeyman against which decent people unite. Newspapers and politicians tend to exaggerate the influence of neo-Nazi groups. Lurid tales of European networks of Fascist groups poised to seize power glamorise what is in the end a tiny group of cranks.

The poet Cavafy wrote of a city that was galvanised into action "because the barbarians are coming today". Statesmen and emperors are given a powerful sense of purpose. But the day ends in confusion when the barbarians fail to show. "And now, what's going to happen to us without barbarians? They were, those people, a kind of solution."

London's authorities have also been galvanised into action by the threat of barbarians. The bombings have cast the police in a new light. They have become defenders of the black communities of Brixton and Brick Lane. Where once they would have been criticised for having too high a profile in these areas, now the harshest censure they face is that the police station in Brick Lane is not fully manned.

Undercover police officers are suddenly finding something more plausible to do than infiltrate animal rights groups. Since the IRA retired from the field, the Special Branch has been looking around for an enemy worthy of its attentions. When you want to tap phones and spy on people, you need a just cause. The White Wolves fit the model of extremist danger perfectly.

Oona King has also risen to meet the challenge. At the time of the last general election, she was parachuted into the Tower Hamlets constituency and ousted the local Bengali favourite, Jalal Uddin. The demand for a black MP to replace the retiring Peter Shore had become unavoidable. But the new Labour team did not want to become hostage to Asian activists in the constituency, so they chose Ms King as an acceptably loyal candidate. Now she has become a target for the White Wolves, any criticism of her status will be silenced.

Jack Straw, on walkabout in Brick Lane, can also pose as the friend of Britain's immigrant communities, leading the search for terrorists of the far Right. But at the same time Mr Straw is steering a new Asylum Bill through Parliament that aims to limit even further the rights of foreigners to enter Britain.

The Home Secretary wants to threaten the employers of asylum-seekers with prosecution, and to get registrars to check the passports and papers of couples before they marry. His Bill — which was backed by Ms King — has a special proposal to prevent asylum-seekers from receiving welfare benefits. Instead, in measures that stigmatise those seeking asylum in this country, they will get special Home Office vouchers. By targeting asylum-seekers the Government reinforces public resentment of such foreigners. When an influx of Slovak Gypsies arrived in Kent last year they were greeted with hostility.

Yet you only have to say "Nazi bombers" to stir up deep sentiments of national unity in Britain. The blitz spirit is an enduring part of our island story. The neo-Nazis may thrive on myths of invading hordes from Asia, but the official culture, too, has its myth of foreign invasion. Except this time it is the far Right that is cast in the role of foreign invaders, always called by a German name, "Nazis", as if racism was something terribly un-British. Doubtless that is a flattering picture to the powers-that-be, but it is not necessarily true.

Today the far Right is merely a handful of embittered cranks, many of whom are in prison. Their ability to launch a race war single-handed is non-existent. But British political culture still needs them. They are the enemy that binds the country together under the safe protection of the Home Secretary and his police officers. They are the barbarians we are waiting for.

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With friends like these

Suggesting loyalty to the Tories is like preaching clemency to the Borgias

Simon Jenkins

Ask the Tory ancients to name their party's secret weapon and they used to give a collective wink. Loyalty, they said, was their sword in good times and their shield in bad. With loyalty on their banner they could meet with triumph and disaster. They could rally behind the daftest leaders and cheer the daftest policies. To question the party was to die.

Suggesting loyalty to today's Conservative Party is like preaching clemency to the Borgias. What can we say to these tortured souls? They demanded strong leadership from Margaret Thatcher, got it and ratted on her. They demanded a personality transplant from John Major, got it and ratted on him. After the 1997 debacle they demanded a new generation from William Hague, got it and are ratting on him. They wanted a clean break, and now accuse him of making a clean break. They tell him to lead, yet they hesitate to follow. What a bunch.

After the past week's fiasco over whether or not to renounce Thatcherism, Mr Hague has joined his two predecessors in being told each week that he is fighting for his life. He was elected to bring the energy and savvy to a defeated party that could beat Labour at its own game. He spoke well and cut a dash in Parliament. He was the provincial, managerialist, Eurosceptical Conservative of the future. No casting agency could have done better. Yet no sooner has the party patted Mr Hague on the head and flicked the fluff from his collar than it knees him in the groin. There is no other plausible leader in the Commons. Mr Hague was elected to guide the Tories through the valley of the shadow of tears. They can hardly complain that he has yet to make them laugh.

The chief case against Mr Hague is that he is doing appallingly in the opinion polls. These polls used to be no more addictive to a politician than the occasional snort of cocaine. Today they are taken intravenously and with shared needles. For all the caveats that pollsters give to their findings, politicians have the same obsession with polls that actors have with critics. Nobody can take seriously the wild rise and fall in the Scottish National Party's rating before next week's Scottish election. It seems that hypothetic questions about elections "tomorrow" are now treated as mere invitations to protest. Respondents appear ever more wilful in answering such questions, but since the only comparator is a real election there is no way of measuring this wilfulness over time. At present, I sense that asking how many people would vote Tory "in an election tomorrow" is like asking in 1942, "if the war stopped now, who would you say was going to win?" For the Tories to read the polls and behave as if Mr Hague had already lost is facile defeatism.

Yet what to make of the shambles from which Mr Hague extricated himself with alleged aplomb on Wednesday night? Peter Lilley's now notorious renunciation speech last week had its roots in the party's continued misreading of the last real poll, the 1997 general election. This misreading is taking on the status of a truly stupendous error. That election was not a repudiation of Thatcherism or of 18 Tory years. It was a gesture of boredom with the Tory Cabinet, a sense of fair play and an acceptance that the Thatcherite revolution would be safe in Labour's hands. It was not a thumping endorsement of Tony Blair's "Third Way": he did not win even half of a low poll. Only the arithmetic of first-past-the-post gave him a sensational Commons majority. As it was, every substantive feature of the Thatcher-Major era, from privatisation to Treasury spending priorities, was entrenched in the Labour manifesto. As in 1945, the Tories had won the war but lost power. The public was happy with the victory but fed up with the victors.

The Conservatives hate that message. They are still reacting like a lover spurned. They cannot quite believe the electorate simply tired of the sight of them and long to believe that it was all a misunderstanding, the outcome of a rectifiable fault. The leader-in-waiting, Michael Portillo, stalks the country with a television camera, pleading to be told what went wrong. The party cannot bring itself to disappear for three years and wait for absence to work its proverbial magic. Hence the self-flagellation, the "savage six" ICM focus groups which reportedly told the party to don the sackcloth and apologise for Thatcherism. In the hands of a suspicious trio of former David Owen aides in Mr Hague's office, the tactic scaled new heights of half-wittedness. Tory managers surely have a clear objective, to win back the Tory deserters who voted for Mrs Thatcher three times and elected Mr Major in 1992. It passes belief that the best way to do this was to assert that they had voted for a heartless and uncaring party and that the public sector upheavals of the 1990s were a ghastly mistake.

The explanation for this aversion therapy is that Mr Blair did all right by denying his past in 1995-96, so why not try the same ruse? Dress Mr Lilley in sheep's clothing and watch the punters purr in the clinics and the classrooms. Watch little children run to kiss his hand. But in 1995, Labour had something serious to deny, a miserable past and a dud ideology. Thatcherism was widely seen as a success, imitated the world over, not least by Labour. Unless Mr Hague has a secret (undeniably exciting) plan to put the Tories to the left of Labour, the last thing he should do is smear Thatcherism or publicise a nasty focus-group stereotype. Thatcherism should be off message, an "-ism" of the 20th not the 21st century.

The true reason for this floundering is that neither Mr Hague nor his colleagues have yet found a political vantage point from which to assault Mr Blair. Despite his background, Mr Hague emerged as leader from within the party's London elite. Like Mr Blair he is instinctively a "nationaliser", sceptical of localism and inclined to demand of government that something must always be done. He is attached to the "consultancy culture" of the Westminster apparat. Rather than revitalise his party from the roots upwards, through the voluntary National Union and a semi-independent Central Office, he has concentrated the party machine under his own office. This leaves him badly exposed if things go wrong. Nor has he responded to the yearning of the shire parties, for him to champion a restoration of their local government power bases, stripped out by Mrs Thatcher. The morale of any opposition party is rooted in local politics. The image of Mr Hague's Conservatism is still that of the think-tank seminar and the *Daily Telegraph* lunch.

This Government has made itself invulnerable to the old Tory charge of 'socialism. It is obsessed with privatisation. Labour ministers have "businessmen" in their entourages much as do their Moscow counterparts. Yet there is a wealth of former Tory values to which Labour should be wholly vulnerable: anti-statism, decentralisation, pluralism and libertarianism. The latest *Political Quarterly* is devoted to a critical audit of Labour's record in democratic change, described by David Beetham and Stuart Weir as designed to "carry out reforms at the periphery but strengthen the concentrated power at the heart of government". Mr Blair's Cabinet is fashioning the most centralised and unaccountable Government in the West. Ask any doctor, lawyer, farmer, teacher, civil servant. Through performance targets and audit, Labour is creating de facto a national police force, a national school system and a national training industry, alongside an ever more centralist health and welfare system. Bureaucratic regulation now outstrips anything seen in peacetime Britain. Housebuilding quotas are being forced on every county with a draconianism unknown outside the former Communist world. Local government is still the most impotent in Europe.

Finding a Tory cause in this morass is hardly seeking a needle in a haystack. Yet they go and attack the Iron Lady instead.

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'We are not Humphrey Bogarts wearing green eyeshades or sporting trilbys on the back of our heads'

Philip Howard

Every day in every way, things do not become worse and worse. It just seems so on a bad morning. Perhaps it was the port you drank last night. But in spite of the grouching of the Jeremiahs (usually, like the original Jeremiah, elderly males suffering from the elephantine midlife crisis known as *musth*), our young are at least as good as their ancestors. In spite of the widespread rumours about dumbing down, young journalists of the future are brighter than their predecessors. Anybody who doubts this should have met the undergraduates studying English at *The Times* annual lecture at Oxford on Wednesday night.

"Journalese" has been a snobbish insult since newspapers began. Queen Victoria would not have "the atrocious *Times*" in her palaces because of what she deemed its disloyalty in opposing the appalling conduct of the Crimean War and in supporting electoral reform. Henry James in *The Bostonians* used journalism as an example of the sensationalism and superficiality of modern life. James himself was no mean journalist of the dignified sort, though in his journalistic contributions he could have used a good sub with a chopper not a needle. But the old notion of prose as the selection of the best words, poetry as the best words in the best order, and journalese as any old words in any old order is just not true, if it ever was.

It is true that daily journalism demands the ability to fill a space without spilling over in the alarmingly short time available, a skill that Henry James never acquired. But one of the many achievements of Jean Aitchison, the Professor of Language and Communication at Oxford, is to have opened up newspapers, film, cartoons and all the other modern media as interesting genres of communication that can be done well or badly, and deserve study as well as *Beowulf*.

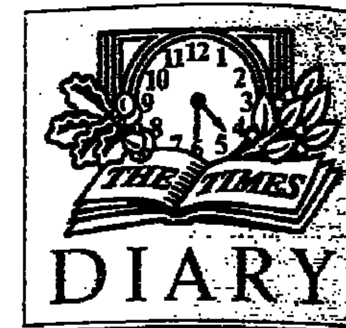
Newspapers ought to reflect ordinary writing, which they influence and by which they are influenced. A modern paper is a great hamper which contains many parcels. You do not have to open them all. You do not have to approve of or agree with them all. But you ought to be able to understand them all. And if you do not find some things that are enjoyable or useful, you should change your paper, or read Henry James.

One of the very few packages that can properly be described as journalese is the headline, because it uses English of a kind and in a way that nobody outside papers does. But we do not splash in big type "Clobba Slobba", or use "row" to mean disagreement, or "probe" to mean investigate, or "axe" to mean reshuffle to spend more time with his family, just for sensational effect, as though we were Humphrey Bogarts, wearing green eyeshades or trilbys on back of heads, and cigarettes in corners of mouths.

Because of the tight space, and the wish to use large type, short words go better into headlines than long ones. In the forest of headlines, three characters good, 21 characters . . . forget it, Henry. Even though corporal punishment has been banned for years, sub-editors either experienced it or read about it in the *Beano*, with Billy Bunter screeching "Yarooch" for all eternity. Headline English still swishes with caning, thrashing, and flogging. One of Jean Aitchison's many projects is work on headline language. I am interested to see whether she finds that Headlinese influences ordinary English outside the narrow column. I suspect that readers are starting to say "probe" and "axe" and "brave" (as a verb) in real life, echoing their newspapers.

Elsewhere in newspapers, it is bad manners and bad journalism to use words that nobody else outside the trade uses. Idiosyncratic columnists, provided they are as good as Henry James, are exceptions that prove the rule. There is a good rule there, notwithstanding. So the computer should squeak when we tap "amidst", or "crucial", or "firstly . . . secondly . . . thirdly", or "notwithstanding". I could read Jean Aitchison on the newspaper category of leading article, the robust journalistic convention that the world would be a far, far better place if it were run from the newspaper office in question. It may be true. "We give this solemn warning to Kaiser Wilhelm: *The Skibereen Eagle* has its eye on you."

With its funny ways, new and ancestral, and the quality of the young coming into it, the future of British journalism shines bright. On a bad morning, I wish that a few of those clever young hacks and hackettes would go into some dire industry, like trains, in which the rest of the world leads us. But then, no. I will put up with the atrocious Tube for a good read.



DIARY

Safety first

IN THE wake of Jill Dando's death, the BBC has ended interviews with MPs on College Green. This is to protect Robin Oakley, its political editor, and his cute sidekick, John Sergeant, from fanatical Serb hitmen (never mind the MPs, who are thought to be safe). This follows my story that grief counsellors are moving into White City, suggesting the Beeb is wobbling.

Security has also been tightened at its Millbank offices. Sergeant, a jovial cove who wrote jokes with Alan Bennett and Michael Palin, sees the absurdity: "They asked me for my pass, even though they clearly knew who I was," he tells me. "I said: 'Do you think I'm going in there to shoot myself?'"

TONY BLAIR, Forces' comedian: flying to Washington from Chicago after delivering a war-cry to America, the PM headed for the cockpit, and cried: "I'm taking this plane to Belgrade."

■ IS THE Prince of Wales pondering a Sean Connery-style "bonehead"? During a tonsorial chat, Jim Tavare, a comedian who sports the shaven-haired look, was quizzed by the Prince about its merits.

"He asked me 'where's the hair?'" says Tavare, "and how often I shaved it. It can look distinguished — look at Sean Connery (pictured with the Prince) — but I really don't know if it would suit a royal."





GERMAINE GREER has been dealt a poignant blow. Having said plebs should be banned from sifting through old manuscripts, Professor Greer was asked at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington if she was "a fit person to handle rare materials". Her university had to supply references. "Clearly her fame doesn't travel," says a naughty colleague. "I can imagine her face when she was told."

■ A GENTLE whipping has been administered to excitable Liberal Democrats at their parliamentary meeting, after Earl Russell threw Jackie Ballard's hat into the leadership ring. Paul Tyler, the Chief Whip, has "reasserted" the rules for the race to replace Paddy Ashdown after Russell reputedly mouthed early support. "There was some concern that everyone had forgotten what they had earlier agreed. There was a request for clarification," says Tyler carefully. "I don't see that I have broken any rules," insists the erudite Earl.

NEW threat to William Hague's teetering leadership from Lord Tebbit. He is taking William's brightest henchman, Iain Duncan Smith, shooting. "Iain had better watch out," I am told. "Norman shoots anything that moves."



■ WHEN Tony Benn eulogised about the late Anthony Crosland at the launch of his biography, few knew the truth about their friendship. I now learn of the impatience with which Crosland could, on occasion, view his impassioned pipe-puffing protégé.

"Tony would cycle round to Crosland's to have long, boring chats about ideology, but Crosland regarded weekends as sacred for relaxation." Once, Susan Crosland told Benn: "Ten minutes later and we would both have been in bed."

THE Household Cavalry charged to the rescue yesterday after a man was knocked over as they practised in Hyde Park. The man, hit by a tourist coach on an adjoining road, was nursed by army doctors — there to watch rehearsals for next month's Major-General's Parade — until an air ambulance arrived. Who says they are there just for show?

JASPER GERARD



BREAK WITH MILOSEVIC

Nato must show that it is serious about stabilising the Balkans

With the apparent blessing of America, whose Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott has just been in Moscow, Viktor Chernomyrdin flies to Belgrade today to put what he calls "concrete proposals" to Slobodan Milosevic. Gerhard Schröder, whom he saw in Bonn en route, spoke of "movement" and repeated Germany's view that Nato could suspend airstrikes once Belgrade had "verifiably begun" to withdraw from Kosovo. This is naive and dangerous talk. Just such a compromise was accepted by the US envoy, Richard Holbrooke, in negotiations last October, a licence to cheat which Mr Milosevic exploited so murderously that Nato was forced to carry out its threat to intervene.

Just when Nato should be piling pressure on Belgrade, these diplomatic flurries will have the opposite effect. The calculation that Russia would rather work with than against the West takes, at present, too much on trust. Russia does not accept Nato's terms for ending this conflict; and Mr Chernomyrdin repeated yesterday that unless Nato first stops bombing, negotiation is "a wasted effort".

He is right about the wasted effort — except that it is potentially worse than that. As the Nato summit affirmed only days ago, its terms — the withdrawal of all Serb forces and the return of all refugees to their homes protected by a Nato-led force — are a bare minimum. Tony Blair has said that there is nothing left to negotiate. But Mr Milosevic will interpret the enlistment of Moscow as an Allied search for a face-saving exit that avoids a ground war, putting victory within his grasp.

The Serbian leader does not need much to "win". He does not even need proof that Nato lacks the will to stand by its declared war aims; all he needs to show is that he remains the man with whom, whatever war crimes he commits, the West will in the end do business. For a decade, he has exploited the legitimacy that Western negotiators have conferred on him to tighten his grip at home while he prepares his next aggressive move. If Nato continues to treat the generator of successive conflicts as its interlocutor, it will show that it is not serious about stabilising the Balkans.

The overthrow of Mr Milosevic is not a Nato war aim. But that does not oblige Nato to talk to him, directly or through intermediaries. His word is not to be trusted, and Western leaders should make that plain. They should be doing everything possible to convince the Serb political establishment, which knows that his disastrous Greater Serbia policy has ruined their country and is at the root of their current predicament, that his removal is their swiftest route to peace.

These people know about the atrocities in Kosovo, even if most Serbs do not. Far from burning Nato's bridges, the indictment of Mr Milosevic for war crimes, with the charges publicly laid out by the tribunal at The Hague, would crystallise the unease which has begun to surface, underline the world's refusal ever again to treat him as part of a political solution and further loosen his grip within the Serb elite.

But the Yugoslav Army must also be convinced that its destruction is certain. It has not bothered to dig in deeply in Kosovo, because Belgrade believes that Nato will never risk a ground assault, a belief that the rumblings on Capitol Hill will reinforce. The chief of the US Air Combat Command bluntly stated yesterday that reliance on air power alone means a long war and a "risk of failure" and is stretching even America's capacity to produce the precision weapons required.

Nato does not have to agree on a ground war before deploying the 28,000 troops it will need to enforce a political settlement. To keep Belgrade guessing, they should be equipped for battle. So far, Nato has 19,000 in theatre, but that includes 8,000 in Albania equipped only for humanitarian relief. But France has troops ready to embark, Germany is shipping in heavy armour and Britain could add a third armoured battle group to bring its forces in Macedonia up to 8,500. Governments should stop talking about a build-up taking "months"; America's rapidly deployable forces include not only the XVIII Airborne Corps, but the US 3rd Mechanised Infantry Division, both kept at a state of constant readiness and able to reach the Balkans within days, not months. The readier Belgrade thinks Nato is to commit such troops, the greater is the prospect that they will not face combat. Mr Blair has said that "success is the only exit strategy I am prepared to consider". Further proof that Nato wills the means is required.

A HEALTHY OPTION

Widdecombe's medicine to cure Tory ailments

Few members of the Shadow Cabinet seem able to keep their heads when all about them are losing theirs. Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, is the exception. This week her voice cut through the Conservative din, pointing out that even if the Tories were to increase spending on the NHS year on year, as they now promise, that still would not be enough to meet future demands. All the political parties accept that spending on health is too low, but only Miss Widdecombe is seeking innovative ways to increase it.

The United Kingdom spends less of its domestic product on health than many other developed countries, but that is not the cardinal point. The NHS has provided good value for money in raising basic standards of health. Britain has fewer doctors per head than any other European country except Albania and Turkey, yet Britons live as long and, cancer apart, are as healthy as other Europeans.

The problem, as Ms Widdecombe has realised, is that the NHS cannot provide all the treatments that people expect. Although its budget has soared from £433 million in 1948 to £42 billion today, universal provision cannot be limitless in scope. As Professor John Spiers shows in a pamphlet published by the Institute of Economic Affairs today, services are rationed in an irrational way. A patient's access to expensive treatments often depends on where he or she lives. Only 15 per cent of patients with multiple sclerosis, for example, are prescribed the costly drug interferon beta on the NHS. Many patients suffering from chronic kidney failure are unable to get the treatment they need.

The question politicians must address is whether higher public spending on health is the only answer. In agreement with Ms Widdecombe, Professor Spiers argues that no matter how much more is spent on the NHS, demand will never be met. Rationing, he writes, is "the fundamental pathology" of a nationalised system. Finite resources can never guarantee unlimited provision, only the right of access to a waiting list. Britain cannot rely solely on a planned health system in which bureaucrats decide what patients need: patients need more encouragement to look after themselves.

Ms Widdecombe is wise, therefore, to consider the restoration of tax relief on private medical insurance a "possibility". The Government was foolhardy to end this concession. In Britain, private health spending remains significantly lower than that of its European counterparts. Ministers should realise that if those who can afford to do so turn to private medicine, pressure on the public sector will be eased.

Furthermore, as the costs of medical treatments rise, politicians must seriously question whether lifestyle drugs should continue to be issued on the NHS, when overstretched budgets already deprive some patients of more critical — even life-saving — care. And unless politicians have the courage to debate this, the NHS will be unsafe in any party's hands.

TALE OF A TELETUBBY

Britain's peacekeeping programme

Anyone who can guarantee a mother a few moments of peace merits a national award. So harassed housewives all over Britain should welcome the nomination of Anne Wood as Woman of the Year. Ms Wood is the creator of the Teletubbies. She invented a failsafe way of persuading toddlers to sit down, shut up and suck their thumbs on the sofa. Not since the days of a dash of gin in the feeding bottle have British homes been more harmonious. Ms Wood may well have defused more squabbles than an average Nobel Peace Prize nominee.

From the moment that a giggling troupe of her fat-bottomed brainchildren first popped up to "say haro", Tinky Winky, Dipsy, Laa-Laa and Po have stayed tuned into the imaginations of pre-school tots. The Teletubbies have been saying "buy buy" ever since. Their spin-offs have whirled more magically than the Teletubbieland windmill and Ms Wood, from working-class roots, has risen to become one of the 500 richest people in Britain.

But with soaring popularity came complaints. Critics moaned that the programme was too vacuous to be instructive. That Laa-Laa's favourite word was "nice". A gay scandal erupted around Tinky Winky's handbag. And while, it was said, a voice trumpet bore all the sinister overtones of surveillance society, the big dopey bunny rabbits flopping around tussocks hinted at the grossness of genetic engineering. As deconstructionists enjoyed a field day, the programme gained cult status. Narcoleptic teenagers, normally intolerant of little siblings, sat placidly down beside them in front of the screen.

Maybe the enigmatic programme does have meanings other than those meant to amuse the very young. Or perhaps its success lies in the fact that it appeals to some atavistic instinct. Precious little happens in sunny Teletubbieland. When it does it happens twice: "Again, again, again," is the most memorable line of dialogue. Does such repetition accord with an ageless form of enjoyment? Primitive man, worn out by a hard day's hunting and gathering, hunkered down by the cave fire and soothed himself by staring into the flames. Today's children find similar solace in the patterns and rhythms which the Teletubbies provide, in the mollifying flicker of the television screen. And parents should find peace too, in the momentary tranquility it brings to their day.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

UK 'foot dragging' on refugee crisis

From the Director of Amnesty International UK

Sir, While the arrival at Leeds-Bradford airport of 161 refugees from Kosovo made your front page (report, April 26), the reporting of their arrival should not mask some hard truths.

In the past five weeks more than 650,000 refugees have fled from Kosovo, the vast majority staying in the region. This organisation has made the strongest representations to the Macedonian authorities to abide by their international obligations towards refugees and not to shut their borders to new arrivals. However, Macedonia is hosting more than 150,000 refugees with 4,000 crossing the border in the past 24 hours. Albania, the poorest country in Europe, is hosting nearly 400,000. Germany, Norway and Turkey have already taken thousands.

The UK Government has a humanitarian obligation to share responsibility for the refugees: the admission of a small group from camps in Macedonia amounts to shameful tokenism and does next to nothing to relieve the pressure on that country.

The UK Government is dragging its feet in evacuating refugees from the camps. At the same time it is pushing a Bill through Parliament which, as the Home Office admits, makes it harder for refugees to seek sanctuary. It is common knowledge that Kosovar refugees are being stripped of their documents on leaving their homeland which will make it impossible for those attempting to flee persecution to obtain the required visa to enter the UK. Those that do overcome the obstacles to arrive here face a life of poverty, waiting endlessly for a decision on their applications. Amnesty International believes the Immigration and Asylum Bill contravenes international law.

Against the background of the refugee crisis in Kosovo, Amnesty International calls on the Government urgently to review the provisions of this ill-conceived and unworkable piece of legislation and show genuine compassion to the Kosovars and others fleeing persecution.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BULL,
Director,
Amnesty International UK,
99-119 Rosebery Avenue, EC1R 4RE.
April 28.

Agricultural research

From the Director of The Save British Science Society

Sir, The cost of the inquiry into the BSE disaster is to be £25 million (News in brief, April 26). There have also been reports of cuts of at least £12 million in the Ministry of Agriculture's investment into researching farming problems. This can only increase the chances of another expensive fiasco occurring in the future.

The ministry's research budget has already fallen in real terms by more than £50 million per annum since 1986, and further cuts would be a dangerous false economy.

Yours faithfully,
PETER COTGREAVE,
Director,
The Save British Science Society,
29-30 Tavistock Square, WC1H 9EZ.
April 27.

Pain for gain

From Mrs Alison Prior

Sir, We were so disappointed to find that the Flora London Marathon's automatic timing system closed at 7hr 38min, preventing those who took longer to finish from being mentioned in your list of results today. While we know the marathon is a race, there is a huge number of participants whose main aim is fundraising. These people are often at the back, walking (or limping) their way around the course to help their chosen cause.

My husband raised £7,500 for Round Table Children's Wish, a charity which arranges "wishes to come true" for terminally ill children. He completed the course in 7hr 42min, 44 sec. In the last three or four miles he passed countless participants, each determined to finish despite agonising cramps, blisters and muscle strain.

These last people to finish, such as the lady who took 30 hours walking to help multiple sclerosis sufferers, surely warrant every bit as much praise as those who finish in just a few hours and are in it for their individual times/fitness.

My heartfelt praise and admiration goes to these less fit but equally determined marathon runners.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON PRIOR,
45 Ironbridge Road,
Broseley, Shropshire TF12 5AD.
April 27.

Trafalgar Square plinth

From Miss Kusoom Vadgama

Sir, The empty plinth in Trafalgar Square (letters, April 19, 24) should have a statue of a woman, and that woman should be Queen Elizabeth I.

Faithfully yours,
KUSOOM VADGAMA,
808 Finchley Road,
Temple Fortune, NW11 6XL.
April 26.

Social factors in surviving cancer

From Mrs Beverley Barton

Sir, We know one reason why richer people are more likely to survive cancer (report, April 23). It is an expensive disease to have.

When I had cancer, half the chemotherapy and all the radiotherapy was given at a hospital 45 miles away. In one three-week period alone I travelled, with my husband, over 1,400 miles for my treatment. We had to pay for car parking at the hospital as well as the diesel fuel to get us there. The whole treatment period lasted ten months. We had to pay social services for home help. I have had to change my eating patterns, using now more expensive foods.

Fortunately my husband has an understanding employer. He was able to have time off work to take me for appointments, care for me while I was ill at home, and care for our three children, then aged three, six and eight.

We were blessed by members of our Christian community with some meals and childcare. And we were blessed again with the offer of extra financial support from our church leaders, if we needed it. No NHS employee ever asked us if the cost of travel was a problem.

Even though we have a low income we know that many people do not have the resources and support we enjoy.

Yours faithfully,
BEVERLEY BARTON,
St Stephen's Vicarage,
60 Broadgate, Preston PR1 8DU.
st.barton@ukonline.co.uk
April 23.

From Mr Ronald Levin

Sir, Three of the principal factors which distinguish the affluent from the poor are education, housing and nutrition.

That more than 50 per cent of cancers are diet-related is now widely accepted, as is the finding that fruit, vegetables and some multivitamins appear to increase our defences against cancer. Studies published by MAFF have shown that consumption of these dietary constituents is much lower among the poor.

Is it not the case that much more attention should be directed to improving the nutrition of the poor, to reduce the impact of cancer and many other chronic diseases?

Yours faithfully,
R. LEVIN
(Fellow, Royal Pharmaceutical Society),
3 Haydon Hill House,
Merry Hill Road, Bushey WD2 1DU.
April 23.

From Lord Baldwin of Bewdley

Sir, It wasn't just "American pessimism" (Professor Gordon McVie's letter, April 23) that Nigel Hawkes reported on April 14. It was hard statistics about the relative failure of 40 years of cancer research, published in one of the world's leading medical journals.

Professor McVie may legitimately bang the drum on behalf of his charity, the Cancer Research Campaign, by highlighting the British record in developing treatments (always drugs) as against the American. But this cannot obscure the overall picture, and his concluding statement "cancer is being beaten" must be recognised for what it is, namely wishful thinking rather than scientific fact.

If cancer is to be beaten it will need a far more innovative research agenda than we have at present — and I am not talking about the aromatherapy and relaxation therapy trials with which Professor McVie sought to reassure me when we corresponded on this subject through your columns last year (letters, May 15 and 26; June 8, 1998).

Yours faithfully,
BALDWIN of BEWDLEY,
House of Lords.
April 26.

Racism as an instinct

From Mr Graham Lyons

Sir, William Rees-Mogg (article, "Hatred past and future", April 26) confuses nature and nurture when he suggests that racism is a basic human instinct.

It may be true that the capacity for aggressive behaviour arises from our instinctive and natural needs, such as to procreate and for survival. Nonetheless, I doubt whether many would subscribe to the alarming view that mankind may carry a gene that is hostile to those that Lord Rees-Mogg refers to in his article as strangers.

Certainly that was not evident from the Danish stand on behalf of the Jews in the Second World War, the decision to set up the United Nations, nor from our present attempted defence of the Kosovo Albanians.

While I would hesitate to call such decisions natural, they demonstrate social progress and a capacity to strive for a better world. Intermarriage and cross-cultural friendships also give the lie to the idea of basic hostility to the stranger.

A study of love, hate, envy, perversion and socialisation processes would be a more intelligent approach to such a complicated subject.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM LYONS,
23 Ormonde Gate, SW3 4EX.
April 26.

Church maintenance

From Dr D. A. Roche

Sir, The local authority should take responsibility for our ancient churches (Mr John Lawrenson's letter, April 22). As Christians we do not need these buildings, which are often highly unsuitable for modern worship; but, whatever our faith, or lack of it, we esteem them as a vital part of our culture.

An increasingly impossible burden is being placed on a diminishing number, who, if rightly practising our faith, should be giving to many other causes. Something has to crack soon, and it is time to realise that these buildings are a public responsibility.

Contrary to the general fall in personal giving by some 30 per cent in the five years since the start of the National Lottery (report, April 22), Anglicans have been giving more, but there has to be a limit to this increasing demand.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS ROCHE,
44 Corbett Avenue,
Droitwich WR9 7BE.
April 24.

Branson's business

From Mr Richard Branson

Sir, Yesterday you published a personal letter from Brian Basham which might have been seen as an attempt to add new colour to the history of the BA/Virgin Dirty Tricks affair. Let me quote from the agreed statement in open court of January 11, 1993, which settled Virgin's dirty tricks libel case against BA and resulted in £610,000 of damages being paid to both Virgin Atlantic and myself.

British Airways and Lord King now accept unreservedly that the allegations which they made against the good faith and integrity of Richard Branson and Virgin Atlantic are wholly untrue. They further accept that Richard Branson and Virgin had reasonable grounds for serious concern about the activities of a number of British Airways employees, and of Mr Basham and their potential effect on the business interests and reputation of Virgin Atlantic and Richard Branson.

The above clear-cut statement was agreed by BA. That says it all!

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD BRANSON,
Virgin Management Ltd,
120 Campden Hill Road, W8 7AR.
April 28.

Concealed firearms

From Lieutenant-Commander D. L. Thomas, RN (retd)

Sir, Commenting on the Denver killings, your second leader on April 22 refers in disapproving tones to the passage of a Bill in the Colorado state legislature which would permit the carrying of concealed firearms by persons of good character.

Before disparaging a policy it is helpful — to avoid pratfalls if nothing else — to discover what the practical results of such a policy are.

To date, some 31 states of the union have enacted concealed-carry legislation. Research shows that in every such state the result has been entirely beneficial with significant falls in almost all types of violent crime, with the greatest reductions occurring in the more densely populated states. The widely predicted mayhem on the streets with trivial arguments settled by gunfire simply did not happen.

By any reckoning the policy must be counted a success. With violent assaults in the Metropolitan Police area approaching the 40,000-a-year mark (report, April 24), we have no cause to feel complacent here.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID THOMAS,
Akroyd Cottage, Abbey Park Lane,
Littleworth Common, Burnham,
Buckinghamshire SL1 8PJ.
April 23.

Cathedral dispute

From Mr Rodney E. Jones

Sir, I believe the headline on your report about the dispute involving volunteers at Salisbury Cathedral, "Volunteers kicked out of cloisters" (April 23), belied the reporting of the disagreement which treated both sides fairly. The temptation to look on this as another example of the "Westminster Abbey syndrome" was rightly resisted.

Because the Church is primarily concerned with people, disputes will happen. But the most important aspect is the attitude of the protagonists with a will on both sides for differences to be settled quickly. With the Dean's reported ability to listen and the evident courtesy of the helpers who have been offered alternative opportunities of serving the cathedral, it is to be hoped that this dispute will soon be resolved.

Yours,
R. E. JONES,
15 South Drive, Timperley,
Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 6QJ.
rodjones.timperley@tesco.net
April 26.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Risks and rewards of devolution

From Mr R. A. Christie

Sir, As a Scot thankful for English benevolence in accommodating me in London for many years, I appreciated Simon Jenkins's fair assessment of devolution ("Cross with St George", April 23). It is a political exercise which presents both risk and reward, but at least people living in Scotland have regained the power to determine their future.

The position the Scots are abandoning is exactly where the single currency is leading England: loss of fiscal control, migration of corporate power to the Continent, and young, executive talent with it; daily intervention by bureaucrats from a different culture, based in a different land; loss of national democracy and self-determination; transfer of home resources to compensate for the spendthrift past and poor productivity of other economies; the slow erosion of national confidence.

So, wake up England! Celebrate the Scots' new freedom and rejoice in the strength of your own position. Your pension schemes are in sensible shape; you have the most robust democracy in Europe, arguably in the world. You have the world's fifth largest economy; productivity and enterprise are improving rapidly; and you are in a great position to take full advantage of the new information technology era.

Don't throw this away, don't take the lazy option and regard the single currency as inevitable. To avoid your grandchildren suffering the same plight as generations of Scots, you should recognise the risks of the single currency and follow the Scottish example — go for self-determination.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN CHRISTIE,
Muirfield,
211 Piccadilly, W1V 9LD.
April 24.

From Mr A. W. Glanville

Sir, The suggestion is being put about that the English Parliament should be located in York.

Surely one Shambles in that fair city is enough?

Yours sceptically,
A. W. GLANVILLE,
Springwood,
5 Courts Hill Road,
Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2NG.
St George's Day.

Gold teeth 'miracle'

From Mr Daniel J. Hill

Sir, Mr Edgar Andrews (letter, April 26) is too harsh on gold-teeth believers. First, he implies that they are not evangelicals. However, the statement of faith of the Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship, the church cited by *The Times* as the first place to witness this new phenomenon (report, April 17), says: "We believe that the Bible is God's Word to the world, speaking to us with authority and without error."

This means that those at the church are evangelicals by Mr Andrews's own definition. One may be an evangelical whatever the colour of one's fillings.

Second, Mr Andrews accuses them of "way-out credulity". Why is it more credulous to believe in the change of fillings from amalgam to gold than it is to believe in the change of water to wine at the wedding in Cana?

Most traditional Christians, including, one presumes, Mr Andrews, are happy to believe the latter.

Yours faithfully,
DANIEL HILL,
Department of Theology and Religious Studies,
King's College London, WC2R 2LS.
daniel.hill@kcl.ac.uk
April 27.

From Mr Mike Lawlor

Sir, As an Anglican whose gold fillings were expertly put in by my dentist, I was grateful for the definition of evangelicals by the Editor of the *Evangelical Times.*

He seems to have omitted a further attribute which many seem also to possess — namely an uncanny ability to feel that they can cast the first stone.

Yours sincerely,
MIKE LAWLOR,
Cloonbeg, 6 Dells Close,
Teddington, Middlesex TW11 0LD.
April 26.

The royal lunch

From Mr Dean. R. Pope

Sir, I am staggered to hear that, after careful examination of Van Dyck's painting *The Five Eldest Children of Charles I*, an expert has identified the item shown adjacent to the bowl in the top right of the picture as a pawpaw (report, April 29).

Anyone living west of the River Tamar will be able to identify the item as a Cornish pasty and not an exotic fruit.

Clearly, the affinity between Cornwall and the Royal Family did not start with the current Prince Charles but originated when King Charles had these pasties delivered to the palace.

Yours sincerely,
D. R. POPE,
Myansome, 8 Doubletrees,
St. Blazey, Par, Cornwall PL24 2LE.
April 29.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 29: The Queen, Sovereign of the Order, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, was present this morning at a Service of the Royal Victorian Order held in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Grand Master of the Order, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, The Duke of Kent, Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy, and the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy were also present.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received by the Dean of Windsor (the Right Reverend David Conner) and the Chaplain of the Order (the Reverend John Robson).

Detachments of Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard and the Military Knights of Windsor were on duty in St George's Chapel.

Lady Dugdale, the Rt Hon Sir Robin Janvrin and Lieutenant Colonel Sir Guy Acland, Bt, were in attendance.

Afterwards The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a Reception at Windsor Castle for those who attended the Service.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by General Sir Edward Jones, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, at the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Admiral Sir Richard Thomas, formerly Gentleman Usher to the Black Rod, which was held at Westminster Abbey, London, today.

The Lord Faringdon, Lord in Waiting, was present at Royal Air Force Northolt, London, this morning upon the Departure of The Governor-General of Australia and Lady Deane, and bade farewell to The Excellencies on behalf of The Queen.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 29: The Prince of Wales this morning visited Sherborne Primary School, Simons Road, Sherborne, Dorset.

His Royal Highness later visited Sherborne School for Girls, Bradford Road, Sherborne, Dorset.

The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this afternoon visited the Poundbury development at Dorchester.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum, this evening gave a dinner for interested companies.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 29: The Duke of York, President, this evening attended a cocktail party for the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions at the Natural History Museum, London SW7.

April 29: The Princess Royal this morning visited General Shaker Al-Sayed at Governorate Office, Qena.

Her Royal Highness afterwards visited an Adult Literacy Training Project (ALTP) at Nag Nasrallah Village.

The Princess Royal this afternoon visited an Adult Literacy Training Project (ALTP) at El-Gabalaw Village.

Her Royal Highness subsequently visited the Tomb of Queen Nefertari at the Valley of the Queens, West Bank.

The Princess Royal later visited the Temple of Hatshepsut.

Her Royal Highness afterwards visited Karnak Temple.

The Princess Royal this evening attended a Dinner given by The British Ambassador to Egypt (Sir David Blatherwick) at the Residence.

Professor Susan Strange

A celebration of the life of Professor Susan Strange will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 1999, at 5.30pm in the Senior Dining Room at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE. All friends and colleagues are welcome to attend. RSVP: 0171-955 7562.

MATTHEW FEARN



Dressed as Jane Austen, Judith French, right, and Natalia Wieczorek and Mike Foster unveil a commemorative plaque to mark an address in Covent Garden, London, where the novelist stayed from 1813 to 1814

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Federation of London Youth Clubs, will visit the Bernard Sunley Outdoor Educational and Activity Centre, Hindleap Warren, East Sussex, at 11.00.

The Duke of York, Honorary Air Commodore, will attend a dinner night at RAF Lossiemouth, at 7.30.

For more details about the Royal Family visit the royal website at : www.royal.gov.uk

Birthdays today

The King of Sweden celebrates his 53rd birthday today.

Sir James Adams, former diplomat, 67; Mr Peter Ahrends, architect, 66; Dr G.E. Aylmer, FBA, former Master, St Peter's College, Oxford, 73; Mrs Janey Buchan, former MEP, 73; Mrs Barbara Calvert, QC, 73; His Honour Sir Robin David, QC, 77; Mr Dickie Davies, sports commentator, 66; Lord Diamond, 92; Mr Leslie Grantham, actor, 53; Mr G.M. Guthrie, former chief executive, Mecca Leisure, 58; Mr Tony Harrison, poet, 62; Mr Alfred Lomas, MEP, 71; Lord McIntosh of Haringey, 66; Mr Keith Povey, former Chief Constable, Leicestershire, 56; Lord Sanderson of Bowden, 66.

Dinners

Chief Police Officers
The Secretary of State for the Home Department and Sir Richard Wilson were the principal guests at the annual dinner of Chief Police Officers held on Wednesday at Guildhall. Sir John Hoddinott, Chief Constable of Hampshire, presided.

Army Board
General Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff, was the host at a dinner given last night by the Army Board at the Royal Hospital Chelsea to meet Lieutenant-General Adan Abdullahi, Army Commander of Kenya. Among those present were:

The High Commissioner for Kenya, Lady Wheeler, Mrs Abdullahi, Mr Roger Jackling, General Sir Alex and Lady Harley, General Sir Frank and Lady Kitson, General Sir Jeremy and Lady Mackenzie, Lieutenant-General Sir Scott and Lady Grant, Major-General and Mrs Kevin O'Donoghue, Major-General and Mrs Philip Trousdell, Mr and Mrs Philip Lee, Colonel Tim Merritt, Colonel and Mrs Geoffrey Okanga, Lieutenant-Colonel Josephat Juma, Lieutenant-Colonel George Maingi, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Richard Osana and Captain Hayley Thompson.

Defence and Security Forum
Mr Nick Prest was the guest speaker at a dinner of the Defence and Security Forum held last night at the Garrick Club.

Shipwrights' Company
Mr Peter Tudball, Prime Warden, and the Earl of Inchcape, and their ladies, received the guests at the annual installation dinner of the Shipwrights' Company held last night at Guildhall. Sir Keith Stuart, Chairman of Associated British Ports Holdings, was the principal guest and speaker.

Quakers show excess in death if not in life

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

A QUAKER burial ground in Kingston upon Thames has shown that the plain dress and sober living of the Society of Friends was not always reflected in their funerals. Coffins with viewing windows and elaborate decoration were used, and some families built substantial vaults to house them through eternity.

The abandoned burial ground, now occupied by new houses, was excavated to shed light on Quaker funeral rites and undertaking practices, Lucy Kirk reports in *London Archaeologist*. All skeletons were assessed for age and sex by forensic anthropologists, while at the same time, historical records were searched to identify who they were. "The Quakers were meticulous record keepers, and documentary sources relating to the burial ground itself and some of the individuals within it were available for study," Ms Kirk says.

Burials took place from as early as 1664, not long after George Fox founded the Society of Friends during the upheavals of the Civil War and Commonwealth. They were dubbed "quakers" by Justice Bennet of Derby because Fox "bid them Tremble at the Word of the Lord", and Samuel Butler noted in *Hudibras* that "Quakers (that, like to lanterns, bear their light within them) will not swear".

Francis Holding, who died in 1696, was worldly enough to have his initials and date of death spelt out on his coffin lid in large brass studs, however, and even infant coffins had generous studwork.

Although one of the Kingston skeletons also suffered from a treponemal disease, identified as venereal syphilis, there has been no suggestion that any other than local Quakers were buried there. The use of a heart-shaped decoration seems likely to be an unremarkable English sentiment rather than evidence of exotic contacts.

Thomas Barnard built a large brick vault in 1744, which held three generations of his family; its construction defied explicit orders that it was not to intrude upon earlier interments, and the Rules of Discipline which frown upon ostentation.

Prominent members of the Barnard family included John, Lord Mayor of London in 1737, while the last interment in the vault, of Anna Barnard, proved to be a coffin empty of all but a blonde wig. "This suggests that she had been inside the coffin but perhaps was removed by the 'body-snatchers' active during the 18th century," Ms Kirk surmises.

Another coffin contained four whole walnuts in their shells, one in the deceased's mouth. While their precise symbolism is uncertain, in folk medicine walnuts are associated with madness, and the deceased may have been suffering from mental illness, Ms Kirk suggests.

Some coffins had glass windows let into their lids, through which the face of the corpse could be seen, and many were comfortably upholstered with mattress and pillow. Dissension from Anglican practice could be seen in the orientation of the burials: only 10 per cent were aligned with the head to the west, so that the deceased would rise facing east towards Jerusalem at the Resurrection, while 55 per cent had the head to the north.

In spite of the proclaimed ideals of the Quakers, many of those buried at Kingston seem to have deviated from them in death, by their own or their families' desire, while the pathological evidence suggests that while bodily excess was uncommon, it was not unknown.

Church news

The Rev David James, Team Rector, Sid Valley (Exeter): to be also Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral (same diocese).
The Rev Harold Loxley, Vicar, Sheffield St Catherine Richmond Road (Sheffield): to be Dean of the Chapter of our Lady and St Peter (same diocese).
The Rev David Mewis, Rector, Bolton by Bowland w Grindleton (Bradford): to be also Rural Dean of Bowland.
The Rev Mavis Nevill, Curate, Mount Pellon Christ Church (Wakefield): to be NSM, Mixenden Holy Nativity (same diocese).
The Rev Andrew Parsons, Rector, Wroxham w. Hoveton St John w. Hoveton St Peter and Belaugh (Norwich): to be also Rural Dean of St Benet at Waxham and Tunstead (same diocese).
The Rev John Rawlings, Vicar, Tavistock and Gulworthy, and Rural Dean of Tavistock (Exeter): to be also Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral (same diocese).
The Rev Richard Sigrist, Episcopal Church Minister, Redding (California, USA): to be Priest-in-Charge, Devonport St Bartholomew (Exeter).
The Rev Edward Townshend, Rector, Lichfield St Chad (Lichfield): to be part-time Assistant Curate (to be known as Assistant Priest), Hamstead St Paul (Birmingham).

Retirements and resignations
The Right Rev Michael Gear, Bishop of Doncaster (Sheffield) to retire November 30.
The Rev Judy Lynas, NSM, Longfleet St Mary (Salisbury) resigned February 5.
Canon Geoffrey Mills, Rector, Whiston (Sheffield) to retire September 30.
The Rev John Morgan, Rector, Hullavington, Norton and Stanton St Quinton (Bristol) to retire July 31.
The Rev Marcus Seccombe, Rector, Rossington St Michael (Sheffield) to retire September 30.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: St Jean Baptiste de la Salle, founder of the Christian Brothers, Rheims, 1651; Queen Mary II, reigned with King William III 1689-94, London, 1662; John Lubbock, 1st Baron Avebury, banker and scientist, London, 1834; Franz Lehar, composer, Komaron, Hungary, 1870; Jaroslav Hasek, novelist, Prague, 1883.
DEATHS: James Montgomery, poet and hymn writer, Sheffield, 1854; Edouard Manet, painter, Paris, 1883; Carl Rosa, violinist and founder of the opera company bearing his name, Paris, 1889; A.E. Housman, poet, Cambridge, 1936; Adolf Hitler, German dictator, Berlin, 1945; Sir Almroth Wright, bacteriologist, Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire, 1947.
George Washington was inaugurated as the 1st American President, 1789.
The Republic of Hawaii ceded itself to the United States, 1900.
The first Land Rover was exhibited at the Amsterdam Motor Show, 1948.
Saigon fell to the Vietcong and was renamed Ho Chi Minh City, 1975.

Requiem Mass

Admiral Sir Richard Thomas
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by General Sir Edward Jones, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, at a Requiem Mass for Admiral Sir Richard Thomas, former Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, held yesterday in Westminster Cathedral.

The Right Rev Richard Yeo, Abbot of Downside, was the principal celebrant. The concelebrants were the Right Rev Francis Walmsley, Roman Catholic Bishop of the Forces, Mgr Tom Burns, Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain, Royal Navy, Father Tom Grufferty, Father Gerald Flood and Father Terry Wilson.

Mr Dominic Thomas, son, and Admiral Sir Hugo White read the lessons. Admiral of the Fleet Sir Julian Oswald gave an address.

Sir Richard's orders and decorations were borne in procession to the sanctuary by Captain Peter Kim, RN, and Lieutenant-Commander Gerald Craig McFeely, RN. The standard of the HMS Gambia Association was carried by Mr Frank Farmer, RN.

The Lord Chancellor was represented by Miss Jenny Rowe and the Speaker by Mr Nicolas Bevan. Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, First Sea Lord, was present and the Chairman of the Military Committee of Nato was represented by Vice-Admiral Paul Haddocks.

Among others present were:

Lady Thomas (widow), Mr George Thomas (son), Miss Harriet Thomas and Miss Jemima Thomas (daughters), Mr and Mrs Guy Tillyard and Mr and Mrs Philip Owen (sons-in-law and daughters), Mrs Dominic Thomas (daughter-in-law) and other members of the family.

Representatives of the Haberdashers' Association, the Stroke Association and the HMS Gambia Association, and many other friends and former colleagues.

Bradfield College

The summer term at Bradfield College began on April 14. Bradfield Day is on Sunday, May 23, when there will be a Gaudy for Old Bradfieldians (1955-1964), and a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Mr Alan Young, formerly Second Master and Housemaster, at which the Address will be given by Mr Michael Hoban. The new first year boarding house, which will open in September 1999, has been named Faulkner's, in memory of Sir Eric Faulkner, Warden of Bradfield (1965-1983).

Service dinner

Headquarters Logistics Command
Wing Commander J.A.J. Sneller presided at a ladies guest night dinner held last night at Headquarters Logistics Command, RAF Brampton to mark the retirement from the service of Air Marshal Sir Colin Terry, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Air Member for Logistics and Chief Engineer (RAF). Air Marshal Malcolm Pledger, Sir Colin's successor, also spoke.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr G.J. Burroughs and Miss A.C. Cheetham
The engagement is announced between Gregor, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Burroughs, of Felpham, West Sussex, and Anne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Cheetham, of Redbourn, Hertfordshire.

Mr N.S. Cameron and Miss C.C. Hill
The engagement is announced between Nick, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Cameron, of Brockenhurst, Hampshire, and Caraline, daughter of Mr Antony Hill, of Ide Hill, Kent, and of Mrs Pamela Read, of Speldhurst, Kent.

Mr N.C. Esch and Miss S.L. Howard
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Charles, son of Mr Vivian Esch and Mrs Janie Foulkes, and Sarah Louise, daughter of Group Captain and Mrs Richard Howard.

Mr P.R. Evans and Miss C.A. Mortimer
A service of blessing will take place at St Peter's Church, Codsall Wood, Staffordshire, on May 29, after the marriage in Douglas, Isle of Man, on April 30, of Mr Peter Ramon Evans, only son of Mrs June H. Evans and the late Mr James H. Evans, of Codsall, Staffordshire, to Miss Carole Anne Mortimer, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric Faulkner, of Stanford, Bedfordshire.

A reception will be held at "Streamside", in the village of Laxey, Isle of Man.

Mr B.L. Foakes and Miss A.J. Tracey
The engagement is announced between Brian, son of Mr and Mrs Leslie Foakes, of Clevedon, Somerset, and Alexe, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Tracey, of Hinckley, Leicestershire.

Mr M. Griffiths and Miss C.A. Fidler
The marriage will take place in Pyrford, Surrey, on June 19, 1999, of Matthew, son of Dr and Mrs Andrew Griffiths, of Chiswick, London, and Charlotte Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Fidler, of Pyrford.

Mr M.E. McEwen-King and Miss A.J. Duncan Smith
The engagement is announced between Magnus, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Robin McEwen-King, of Nemphlar, Lanarkshire, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Duncan Smith, of Sparsholt, Hampshire.

Mr H. Glynn and Miss E.J. Croxson
The engagement is announced between Howard, son of Mr and Mrs Derek Glynn, of Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, and Elizabeth, daughter of Dr and Mrs Richard Croxson, of Islington, London.

Mr D.M.J. Lewis and Miss F.G. Lewis
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Leo Lewis, and Fiona, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Clive Lewis.

Mr T.B.R. Moffatt and Miss C.A. Macphail
The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Mr and Mrs Benjamin Moffatt, of Dingley, Leicestershire, and Catriona, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Macphail, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Mr A. Verma and Miss S.A. Christie
The engagement is announced between Anurag, son of Mr and Mrs Tuhin Verma, of Vienna, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Christie, of Fishbourne, West Sussex.

Marriages

Mr N.J.E. Cook and Miss H.K.H. Baird
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 24, 1999, at the Church of St Mary, Stoke-by-Nayland, Suffolk, between Mr Nicholas Cook, son of Mr and Mrs Derek Cook, of Over Alderley, Cheshire, and Miss Helen Baird, elder daughter of Mr Guy Baird, of Compton Abdale, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Juliet Baird, of Nayland, Suffolk. The Revd Canon David Stranack officiated, assisted by the Revd David Finch.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Pippa Baird, Miss Camilla Edmondson, Miss Poppy Wilson and Miss Alexandra Mears. Mr Mark Foulds was best man.

A reception was held at Higham Lodge and the honeymoon is being spent in the British Virgin Islands.

Mr A.C. Scott and Miss D.L. Brocklebank
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 10, 1999, at the Church of St Mary, Stoke-by-Nayland, Suffolk, of Mr Anthony Scott, son of Mrs Peter Dimmock and the late Mr James Scott, of Windlesham Park, Surrey, to Miss Diana Brocklebank, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Brocklebank, of Giffords Hall, Suffolk.

Latest wills

Professor Sir Alan **Hodgkin**, OM, FRS, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, 1978-84, of Cambridge, left estate valued at £470,156 net.

Baroness Hunt of Fawley, of Fawley Green, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £583,608 net.

The 17th **Earl of Devon**, of Powderham, Exeter, Devon, left estate valued at £70,000 net.

Sir David **Woodbine Parish**, master builder, former chairman City and Guilds of London Institute, chairman of Bovis 1959-66, of Pulborough, West Sussex, left estate valued at £517,772 net.
He left £500 to the PCC of St Botolph's, Hardham, West Sussex; £250 each to Friends of St Thomas' Hospital, Friends of King Edward VII Hospital, Florence Nightingale Museum Trust and Musicians' Benevolent Fund.

Sir John Henry **Bremridge**, chairman, John Swire and Sons HK, of Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £23,328 net.

Louis **Freedman**, of Taplow, Maidenhead, Berkshire, left estate valued at £12,379,684 net.
He left £500,000 to the Louis Freedman Charitable Settlement.

Winifred Roma **Jeffery**, of Beaconsfield, Bucks, left estate valued at £2,234,005 net.

John Leslie **Bolam**, of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, left estate valued at £1,492,220 net.

Denis Eley Colquhoun **Hayes**, of Milford-on-Sea, Lymington, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,250,017 net.

Edith Marion **Grant**, of Buckland Village, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £994,057 net.

Roderick **Harries**, of Icomb, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £1,438,450 net.
He left £1,000 to Imperial Cancer Research Fund; £500 to both the PCC of Icomb Church and Icomb Village Institute.

Lilian Frances **Jones**, of Kegworth, Derby, left estate valued at £1,586,503 net.
She left £20,000 to both the Patients' Amenity Fund and Kegworth Parish Church; £10,000 to Christ Church, Swindon; £2,000 each to Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society, RNIB, and Action Research for the Crippled Child.

Elizabeth Ramsay **Law**, of Puckington, Ilminster, Somerset, left estate valued at £1,273,162 net.
She left £5,000 to the Parish Church of St Andrew, Puckington, Ilminster; £500 to both RSPCA and Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Isobel **Mack**, of Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,153,424 net.
She left shares in her residuary estate between the MS Society and Barnardo's.

Laura Kathleen **Richardson**, of Wollaton Park, Nottingham, left estate valued at £1,886,229 net.
She left £1,000 each to the PDSA and the RSPCA.

Thomas Smith **Scott**, of Wilmslow, Cheshire, left estate valued at £1,082,475 net.

Charles Pembroke **Stratton**, of Tyringham, Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,192,619 net.

Cedric Stafford **Taylor**, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,940,322 net.

Jeffrey **Wilkinson**, of Wychbold, Droitwich, Worcestershire, left estate valued at £1,270,257 net.

OBITUARIES

DR JOHN LAWS

Dr John Laws, CBE, radiologist, died on March 20 aged 77. He was born on October 25, 1921.

JOHN LAWS was one of the outstanding radiologists of his generation, a gifted teacher who developed the radiology department at King's College Hospital in London into one of the finest in the country. He also trained many young doctors who now direct their own departments in Britain and overseas.

The younger of two brothers whose father died when he was 11, John William Laws won a scholarship to the Leys School, Cambridge. He shot for the school at Bisley for three years, winning the Aylesbury Cup in 1938. He studied medicine at Sheffield University and, after junior house jobs and service in the RAMC, specialised in diagnostic radiology.

In 1955 he joined the X-ray department at the Hammersmith Hospital, London, and also the Royal Postgraduate Medical School as senior lecturer and consultant. In 12 years of clinical work, teaching and research at the Hammersmith he constantly improved its standards. His main research interests were disorders of the digestive system and chronic lung disease.

In 1967 he became the director of radiology at King's College Hospital in South London. There, he transformed a department which had been ailing for some time into the hub of the hospital's clinical activities. As his reputation spread, aspiring radiologists came to work and train at King's, which acquired some of the best minds in the field.

Laws played a large part in the activities of the Royal College of Radiologists, of which he was successively registrar, warden and finally president, 1980-83. In 1982 he was appointed CBE.

He also served as consultant adviser in radiology to the Department of Health and Social Security, 1982-86, and as consultant civilian adviser to the Army, 1976-86.

As he neared retirement he took up a new challenge, that of establishing a department of radiology at the new Cromwell Hospital in West London. Here he once again attracted enthusiastic young consultants, and the exacting standards of King's College Hospital were soon evident also at the Cromwell.

Never a man averse to taking an unorthodox position, as a member of the ethics committee of the Cromwell he approved the decision for egg-sharing which was pioneered by its in-vitro fertilisation unit, because he felt it was right that more than one woman should be able to benefit.

In retirement Laws explored his lifelong love of photography, and also took up sculpting, which he saw as a natural extension — into a third dimension — of his reading of X-rays. Remarkably talented, he undertook a number of commissions, including four Royal College presidents.

John Laws's first marriage, to Dr Pamela King, lasted 40 years until her death in 1985. In 1986 he married Dr Diana Brinkley. She survives him, with the son and daughter from his first marriage.

SIR WILLIAM McCREA

Sir William McCrea, FRS, mathematician and cosmologist, died on April 25 aged 94. He was born on December 13, 1904.

In a career spanning much of the 20th century, Sir William McCrea made discoveries in mathematics, physics, astronomy and cosmology. He established an international reputation as a researcher and teacher, and inspired affection and respect around the world. He was invited to visit many countries, often as a Royal Society exchange visitor, and was the first British scientist to make an official visit to Argentina after the Falklands conflict.

In common with many astronomers of his generation, he spent most of his academic career in mathematics departments, and his first astronomical appointment came in 1966, when he was appointed to be the founding Professor of Astronomy at Sussex University. However, his interest in astronomy had begun some 40 years earlier, while he was a research student in Cambridge (although his first two papers were on the specific heats of carbon dioxide and water vapour).

At that time, it was still commonly believed that the main constituent of the Sun was iron. In 1929 McCrea followed up the independent results of Cecilia Payne and Albrecht Unsöld which suggested that hydrogen was dominant in the solar atmosphere, and proved conclusively that this was right in a series of papers which laid the foundations for the currently accepted abundances of about three-quarters hydrogen and one-quarter helium by mass.

William Hunter McCrea had won a scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge, which he entered in 1923. While working for the maths Tripos he somehow found time also to obtain a first-class BSc from London University. In 1927 he was awarded a Rayleigh Prize and was Rouse Ball Senior Student at Trinity. In 1928 he won an exhibition in astronomy, and in 1929 he was awarded an Isaac Newton Studentship.

After a year's research in Göttingen, he became a lecturer in Edinburgh, where he met Marian Core, whom he married in 1933. In Edinburgh he turned to the study of relativity and its application to cosmology, as well as working in applied mathematics.

After a period at Imperial College, he was offered a chair in 1936 at Queen's University, Belfast. He took leave in 1943 and for the rest of the war was engaged in operational research for the Admiralty. In 1944 he became Professor of Mathematics and head of department at Royal Holloway College; he was to remain there for 22 years.

In the 1950s his interest in relativity led to a contentious dispute with Professor Herbert Dingle over the "twin paradox", which proposes that the space-travelling one of a pair of twins would age less than the twin who remained on the Earth. McCrea convincingly demonstrated that this is correct.



At the same period, he was one of the few people to take seriously the steady-state theory, and he showed how to treat it within the framework of general relativity. He later accepted that the theory was ruled out by observational evidence, but he never completely espoused the alternative big bang model, and latterly he became increasingly sceptical about all cosmological models.

In astrophysics, McCrea covered many topics, from cosmology to cosmic rays and novae, and wrote influentially on the nature of comets and the astronomical conditions for terrestrial ice ages. He had a particular interest in star formation and developed an innovative model for the origin of the solar system. He always emphasised the need for physical understanding, and was the first to make a quantitative study of the rate of formation of hydrogen molecules on the surfaces of dust grains in space, a process crucial to many reactions in interstellar chemistry.

In all he wrote some 280 scientific papers and six books, as well as editing several journals. But he also played a major role in national astronomy. From 1944, he spent many years on the Board of Visitors of the Royal Greenwich Observatory, and he wrote a delightful account of its early history at the time of its tercentenary in 1975. His work for scientific societies was remarkable for its extent and variety. Uniquely he held all four offices (president, secretary, treasurer and foreign correspondent) in the Royal Astronomical Society, and he was on its council almost continuously from 1936 to 1980.

From the 1950s, McCrea pressed for the establishment of a national institute for theoretical astronomy. This was approved by the Royal Society, and the net result was the establishment of the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge, led by Fred Hoyle, and of the smaller Astronomy Centre at Sussex University, where McCrea became Research Professor.

The proximity of the Royal Greenwich Observatory, then at Herstmonceux, and the enthusiastic support of the then Astronomer Royal, Sir Richard Woolley, made for a long and successful partnership between observatory and university. After his retirement in 1972, McCrea continued to attend the Astronomy Centre's weekly seminars regularly until the end of 1997, when failing health prevented him from travelling to the university. He also took advantage of his retirement to make extended overseas visits.

Throughout his career McCrea accumulated fellowships and honours. He was awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1976 and held five honorary degrees. Following his election in 1929, he was a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society for some 70 years. Membership of the London Mathematical Society and Fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh followed in 1931, and he became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1952. His career was crowned by his knighthood in 1985.

Unassuming and modest, Bill McCrea had friends and admirers everywhere, and enemies nowhere. His passing marks the end of an era in British astronomy.

His wife Marian died in 1995, but he is survived by two daughters and a son.

PETER WARE

Peter Ware, MC, architect and conservationist, died on March 18 aged 70. He was born on February 8, 1929.

BOTH as a soldier and as an architect, Peter Ware was known for his high standards. He was renowned for his conservation work and acted as the architectural consultant on many restoration projects. Among these were Barlaston Hall, the Staffordshire home of the Wedgwood family; Acton Court in south Gloucestershire; and the reconstruction of Clevedon Pier, for which an award from the Civic Trust was announced only hours after his death.

As a young officer doing his National Service with the Gloucestershire Regiment in 1951, Ware served in Korea. After coming under heavy attack, he courageously led his heavily out-numbered troops to safety over difficult terrain during the Battle of Imjin River, for which he was awarded the MC. It was typical of his unassuming nature that few, if any, of his colleagues over the past 40 years knew of the honour.

An alumnus of the now-closed Bristol School of Architecture, Ware ran his own practice in the city for more than 40 years. He quickly became noted for his work in the conservation of old buildings, and served as a consultant to both English Heritage and the City of Bristol.

The Reptile House at Bristol Zoo, designed by Peter Ware

He was also drawn to contemporary architecture, specialising in zoological buildings. He designed homes for the monkeys, elephants and reptiles of Bristol Zoo, as well as converting its bear pit into a walk-through aquarium.

A key figure in the drive to designate conservation areas, he found time to inform and inspire people about architecture and landscape through the establishment of a series of study tours, and was closely involved with the Bristol Architecture Centre.

His project at Barlaston Hall, which had been rescued by Marcus Binney in the 1970s, won the Plasterers' Award in 1998 for the quality of the hand-restored plasterwork. The Clevedon Pier project involved tracking down Victorian cast-iron buildings long since removed and restoring them to their glory.

Ware's love of fine buildings and elegant architecture was mirrored in his private life. In 1954 he spent £160 purchasing a derelict property in Dowry Square, Bristol, which had once been the home of Robert Davey, the inventor of the gas lamp. The Georgian town house was soon restored, as indeed was the whole square, with Ware as consultant.

Raised an Anglican, Ware converted to Roman Catholicism at the time of his marriage in 1958. He nevertheless maintained a close relationship with the Church of England, carrying out quinquennial architectural reports on many of the West Country's ecclesiastical buildings. During the 1960s he designed the circular Catholic Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs at Burnham-on-Sea.

He is survived by his wife, Marie Michallat, and by their two sons and two daughters.

BRIGADIER THE HON RICHARD HAMILTON-RUSSELL

Brigadier the Hon Richard Hamilton-Russell, DSO and Bar, LVO, wartime tank commander, died on March 2 aged 90. He was born on February 4, 1909.

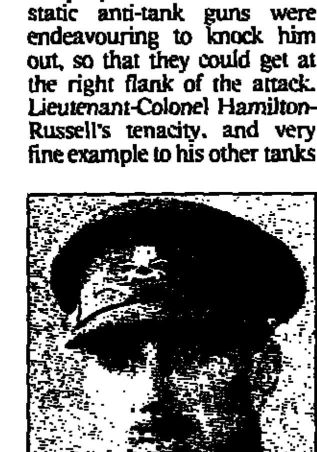
A CAVALRY officer who mastered mechanisation and led his regiment in North Africa and Italy, Dick Hamilton-Russell had an exceptional career as a fighting soldier in the Second World War. Commissioned into the 17th/21st Lancers in 1929, he had been destined for the Brigade of Guards, but the commanding officer of the 17th/21st, impressed by his excellent horsemanship which won him the Saddle at Sandhurst, persuaded him that his talent would find more scope in the cavalry. The regiment, mechanised in India in 1938, arrived home too late to take part in the field until the Torch invasion of North Africa in 1942, by which time Hamilton-Russell had risen to command. He led the regiment till May 1944.

Its engagements — in which he was twice decorated — included the Battle of Thala, where the regiment stopped Rommel's thrust at the supply lines of the 1st Army. In a long and hard-fought day and night action Hamilton-Russell had three tanks shot under him. The Battle of Fondouk was the Balaclava of the war for the 17th/21st and the 16th/5th — now united as the Queen's Royal Lancers. There the armour was compelled to force the pass, heavily mined and guarded by anti-tank guns, when the infantry were unable to clear the high ground on either side.

Here Hamilton-Russell received his first DSO for (in the words of the official citation) "his coolness and tenacity . . . although himself slightly wounded, he quietly maintained the morale of the regiment which had fairly heavy casualties and finally won through in the face of difficulties which at one time appeared insuperable".

In the final stages of the North African campaign the regiment was involved in the Battle of El Hourzia. This was an attack on a prominent feature designed to draw off and exhaust the German armoured reserves. The plan was successful, and opened the gate to the final pursuit and surrender of the enemy in the Cap Bou peninsula.

The last great battle in which he was involved was in Italy, the breaking of the Gustav Line at Cassino, where he won the Bar to his DSO. In this engagement the two tank troops guarding the flank of the action were knocked out, and he himself with the four tanks of regimental headquarters "guarded the flank for four hours during which two self-propelled and at least one static anti-tank guns were endeavouring to knock him out, so that they could get at the right flank of the attack. Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton-Russell's tenacity, and very fine example to his other tanks



alone prevented the enemy from interfering with 78th Division".

After Cassino, Hamilton-Russell was appointed second-in-command of 21st Army Tank Brigade. When the war ended he was sent to Austria to command the regiment for the second time, and later commanded it for the third time, when it was acting as a training regiment in Yorkshire. He retired from the Army in 1954 after instructing at the Staff College, Camberley, and was Colonel of the Regiment, 1957-65. He was a member of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, 1956-79.

Born the second son of the 9th Viscount Boyne, the Hon Richard Gustavus Hamilton-Russell was the only one of four brothers to survive the war. Educated at Eton and Sandhurst, he joined his regiment on the eve of embarkation for Egypt and India.

In 1956 he and his wife, the Hon Pamela Cayzer, settled in Yorkshire, where he farmed 300 acres. He hunted with the Bedale, did duty as High Sheriff and Deputy Lieutenant, and was prominent in charitable causes, particularly the Red Cross. His wife died in 1987. He leaves a daughter and two sons, both of whom served in the regiment.

OLIVIA CAMPBELL

Olivia Campbell, teacher, died on March 15 aged 93. She was born on April 1, 1905.

OLIVIA CAMPBELL and her husband were among the small group who helped Kurt Hahn to found Gordonstoun School, so affecting the development of education in Britain and abroad in ways that we now take for granted. Good schools now commonly embrace adventure training, community service and the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, and provide a wide choice of activities to suit all kinds of pupils. Campbell played a distinctive part in establishing this rounded and civic vision of education.

Olivia Paton was the daughter of a professor at Glasgow University. Her grandfather was the artist Sir Noel Paton. She was brought up with her elder brother, Donald, and their cousin Victor (later Lord Ferrier), and learnt early to compete in male society. The small Edwardian four-year-old asserted herself by kicking the big boys' train set to make them angry. Once included, she became an excellent shot and fly-fisherman, a keen fencing competitor, and a sailor with a cool head in dangerous waters.

Educated at Downe House, first at Darwin's home in Kent and later near Newbury, she was nicknamed "the pugnacious pict". Her headmistress, Olive Willis, who had founded the school, wrote in her last report "I shall miss her flint to my steel", but was to remain her friend and mentor for life.

Olivia Paton took a first in history at Glasgow University before moving to London University to take a doctorate. In 1930 she married Keir Campbell, who was running explorations for Shell in the United States. With the Depression biting, however, he was made redundant, and the Campbells had to cut their overheads. They moved to a tent in the mountains, and Keir found work in soup kitchens. Eventually they joined her brother, and by hard labour started a quarry on Orcas Island, Seattle, mining lime for bleaching newsprint.

Olivia Campbell began to reconsider both educational priorities and her own atheism. Returning to Britain, the couple were advised by Olive Willis to contact Kurt Hahn, the founder of Salem, the exclusive German boarding school, who had been rescued from prison under Hitler, and was planning to start an experiment in education at Gordonstoun in Moray.

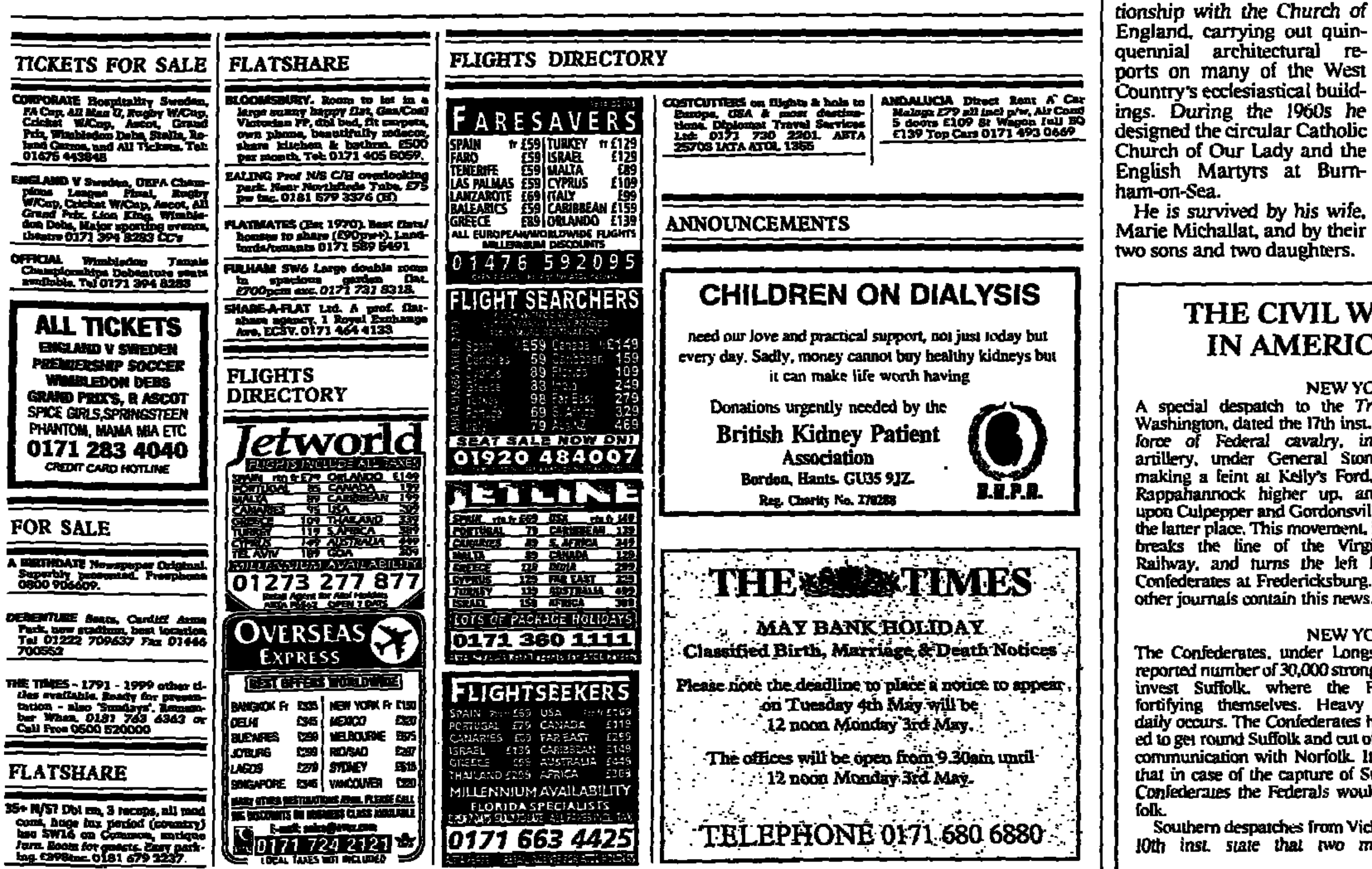
Hahn's school set out with £2,000 and six pupils to train a generation to be physically and mentally independent. Keir Campbell taught geography, ran the estate, and was described in the first prospectus as one of three "character training staff". His wife taught history.

Campbell was as concerned with current events as with history. Before the war she had published a paper on *Britain and Democracy*, which incidentally discussed the need to rebuild society in Germany after Hitler. The training of good citizens became an important ideal at Gordonstoun.

After the war Hahn set up a training centre at Dunkinty House, Moray, run by the Campbells and attended by Germans sent from education, local government, churches and other groups dedicated to preventing the rise of further dictatorships.

Later, Campbell and her husband (who died in 1955) ran a forestry and farming estate in Argyll. When Olive Willis was due to retire from Downe House in the 1950s, she asked Campbell to succeed, but Campbell took the difficult decision to put first her commitment to her two sons and two daughters and her husband's three orphaned nephews. They all survive her.

PERSONAL COLUMN



THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA

ON THIS DAY

April 30, 1863

The Times was appallingly wrong on the American Civil War. In Printing House Square there was an anti-North prejudice, fuelled by the inaccurate, unbalanced reports of the paper's correspondents.

NEW YORK, April 18

A special despatch to the *Tribune*, from Washington, dated the 17th inst. states that a force of Federal cavalry, infantry, and artillery, under General Stoneman, after making a feint at Kelly's Ford, crossed the Rappahannock higher up, and advanced upon Culpepper and Gordonsville, occupying the latter place. This movement, it is asserted, breaks the line of the Virginia Central Railway, and turns the left flank of the Confederates at Fredericksburg. None of the other journals contain this news.

NEW YORK, April 17

The Confederates, under Longstreet, to the reported number of 30,000 strong, continue to invest Suffolk, where the Federals are fortifying themselves. Heavy skirmishing daily occurs. The Confederates have attempted to get round Suffolk and cut off the Federal communication with Norfolk. It is supposed that in case of the capture of Suffolk by the Confederates the Federals would burn Norfolk.

Southern despatches from Vicksburg to the 10th inst. state that two more Federal transports, filled with troops, had gone up the Mississippi, and others were preparing to follow.

Fifty-three Federal gunboats had proceeded up the Coldwater River. A Federal iron-clad was abandoned and destroyed at the mouth of the Amite River.

Refugees from Vicksburg state that there are sufficient supplies there to last the garrison for two years. Vicksburg is fortified by 225 cannon. At present it is held by not more than 5,000 troops, but, in case of attack, reinforcements can be had.

The Confederates are constructing three gunboats up the Red River. The steamer *Indianola* is lying at Plaisance, on the Red River, ready for action . . .

The New York press generally, with the exception of the *World*, are assuming a highly belligerent tone towards England. The *New York Herald* urges President Lincoln to call an extra Session of Congress, to consider what measures ought to be adopted in case of a collision with England, and thinks Congress should share with the President the responsibilities of a war with England, if such a course should be necessary to vindicate the honour or uphold the interests of America.

The *New York Times* says it is physically certain that America will exact atonement for British outrages; the only uncertain thing is the question of time. It may be next month, or next year, or ten years hence, but every dollar destroyed by English privateers will be made good by voluntary payments or reprisals.

The same journal thinks that the invincibility of the American seaboard is proved by the fact that the harbour obstructions can prevent the entrance into their ports of iron-clad fleets; and, as the war would be entirely defensive on the part of America, with the exception that America would invade Canada and launch hundreds of privateers, there is left no room to doubt that England would get the worst of it.

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

US firms may run benefits system

■ Tony Blair has approved plans for Britain's largest privatisation by inviting companies to run the delivery of the £110 billion benefit system.

The Prime Minister is putting his personal authority on the initiative, which will be Labour's key welfare reform proposal at the next general election. A restricted document, leaked to *The Times*, reveals that two American-based companies are short-listed to run four pilot benefit-delivery operations..........Page 1

Nato bungle as missile hits Bulgaria

■ Nato sought to limit the diplomatic damage from an air-launched missile which went astray and destroyed a house in the suburbs of Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. The alliance said the missile strayed after it was fired at a Serbian surface-to-air missile site that had tracked it with radar...........Pages 1, 18-20

Pinochet may get aid

British taxpayers could be saddled with a multimillion-pound legal bill from General Pinochet after Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, announced that he may be entitled to legal aid............Page 1

Tories blame Lilley

William Hague is being urged to sack Peter Lilley, his deputy, in the aftermath of the public services row which has damaged the party in the run-up to the mid-term elections..............Pages 1, 15

BBC tightens safety

BBC staff were issued with a four-point safety plan as Tony Hall, the chief executive of BBC News, remained under police protection after receiving a death threat from a caller claiming to be a Serb activist......................Page 4

Heart surgery in pub

A woman doctor brought a stabbing victim back to life by performing open heart surgery on the floor of a pub..............Page 5

Weather's new look

The complexion of weather maps will change from tomorrow when they carry an ultraviolet radiation forecasts to show how dangerous the sun's rays are..............Page 7

Ancient zoo at Tower

Archaeologists at the Tower of London have uncovered the foundations of an ancient menagerie that pre-dates the Regent's Park Zoo..................................Page 9

Prison fitness tests

Fitness tests are being planned for prison officers after the National Audit Office found that a "sickness culture" is costing up to £62 million a year............Page 10

Football gravy train

England's millionaire Premier League footballers enjoyed a 36 per cent pay increase last season, picking up £296 million, or £253,000 a player.............Page 11

Disney role for Vinnie

The former Wimbledon footballer Vinnie Jones has landed a Hollywood role after impressing Disney in *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*......................Page 11

GM-free label plan

Supermarkets that can prove they are sourcing all their ingredients from conventionally grown crops will be able to label products as GM free, under a new scheme being considered by government ministers..........................Page 12

Psycho at the Proms

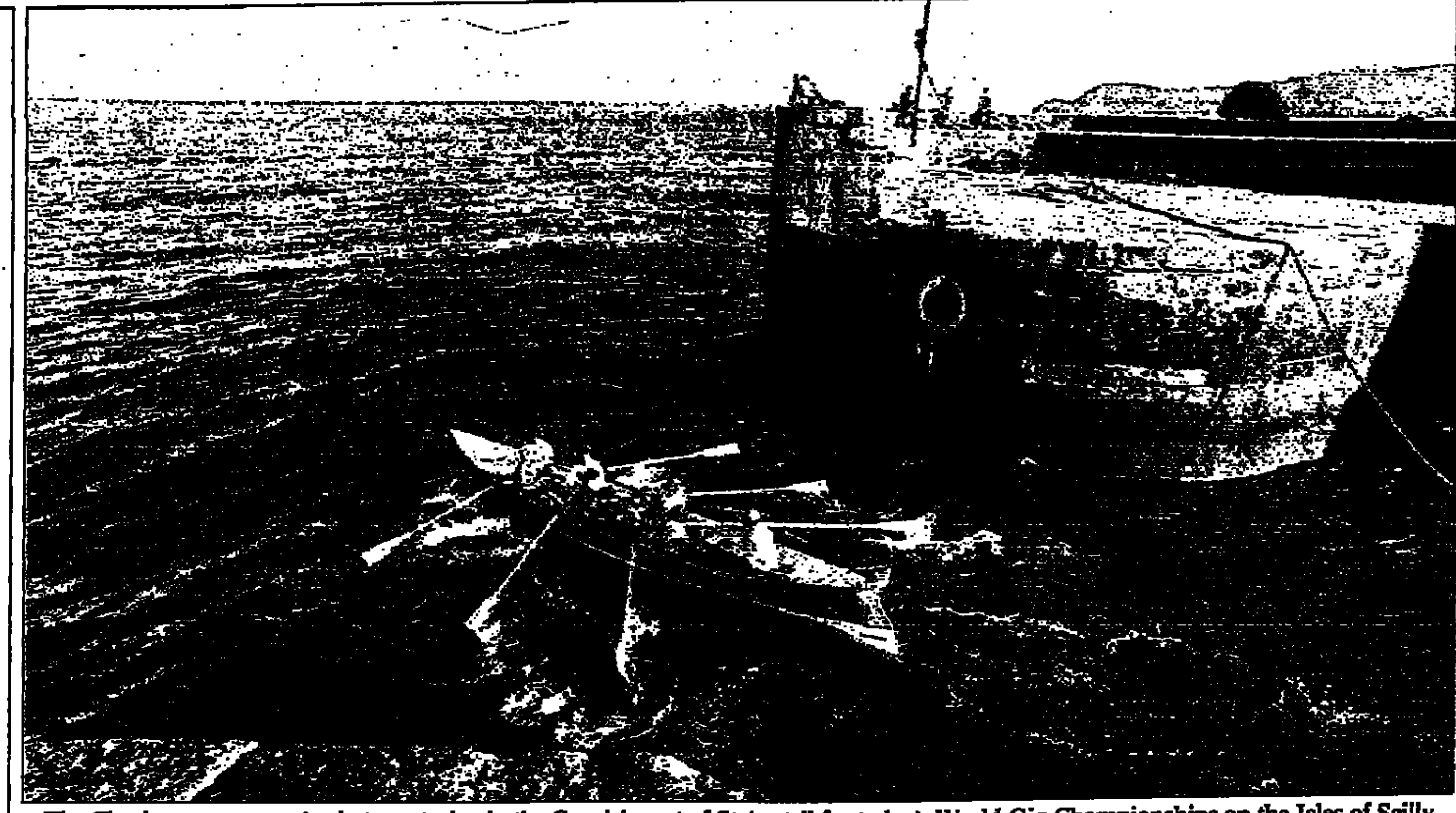
Bernard Herrmann's frightening score to the Alfred Hitchcock classic *Psycho* will be featured in a special night of film music at the 105th Proms season.........Page 13

Bad vote for Clinton

The US House of Representatives has refused to support airstrikes against Yugoslavia and challenged President Bill Clinton's authority to wage a future ground war.................................Page 22

Teenager spends £1.7m on Internet

■ Andrew Tyler's mother started hyperventilating when she received the bill for her teenager's Internet shopping spree. The 13-year-old computer buff from New Jersey bid a total of £1.7 million on eBay, an Internet auction site, and won the bidding for five items including two vintage cars and an antique bed. "I'm in big trouble," he said.................................Page 23



The Charlestown women's gig team trains in the Cornish port of St Austell for today's World Gig Championships on the Isles of Scilly

BUSINESS

Airtours bids: Airtours, Britain's second largest tour operator, launched a hostile £852 million bid for rival First Choice..........Page 31

Euro obstacle: The Chancellor's policies are threatening to undermine the Government's aim of joining the single currency, an economic forecaster claims........Page 31

US buy: The shares of United News and Media surged in a falling market after the company paid $920 million in cash for CMP, a US high technology publishing company with online interests...........Page 31

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 101.2 points to 6497.6. The pound fell 0.44 cents to $1.6109 but rose 0.11p against the euro to 65.73p. The sterling index was unchanged at 104.1.................................Page 34

SPORT

Football: Kevin Keegan is expected to sign a three-year contract as England coach..........................Page 60

Cricket: Ian Botham criticised England's preparations for the World Cup...................................Page 60

Tennis: Wimbledon has decided not to equalise the payments for the men's and women's events despite pressure...............................Page 60

Snooker: Mark Williams established a 5-3 lead over John Higgins in the semi-finals of the world championship.......................Page 58

LOTTERY

15, 23, 24, 36, 43, 49. Bonus: 11

These numbers are from the National Lottery midweek draw on Wednesday, April 28. One person scooped the jackpot of £4,381,725.

ARTS

Morrison on Mahler: "Ninety years on, the Eighth Symphony continues to enthral and deafen us. But can I take it twice in three days? You bet"..............................Page 39

Pop 1: Caitlin Moran takes to the hills with Stephen Duffy of the Lilac Time; plus Melky Sedeck, hot on the heels of their Fugees brother, Wyclef Jean.........................Page 40

Pop 2: David Sinclair reviews the new album from Suede and wonders whatever happened to their relentless sense of drive and destiny; plus the rise of Arab music in the UK..............................Page 41

Nobles and savages: The RSC stages an adaptation of Aphra Behn's 17th-century novel *Oroonoko*, revealing her amazing view of the slave trade.......Page 42

FEATURES

Cutting edge: "The other day I set fire to a brace of knives. There they were, lying next to the cooker, when I turned on the gas — and whoomph!" Jane Shilling's hot cuisine.................................Page 24

Class war: In the final extract from his memoirs, the former Tory minister George Walden dissects three giants of new Labour.........Page 25

MEDIA

Sun rise: Brian MacArthur talks to David Yelland, the editor of Britain's top-selling tabloid.....Page 43

Flock jock: If the figures are to be believed, the DJ Yegor Shishkovsky has the largest radio audience in the world.........................Page 44

EDUCATION

Back to basics: US pupils failing elementary tests must do holiday classes. Could the idea help British pupils?..............................Page 49

THE PAPERS

In East Timor this week, Britain's Deputy Foreign Secretary, Mr Derek Fatchett, has been photographed visiting a clinic in Dili, seeing the sufferings of East Timorese. His visit follows controversy in Britain over the contradiction between the Blair Government's commitment to an "ethical" foreign policy and rising British arms sales to Indonesia. Inevitably then, Mr Fatchett's show of concern in Dili is unconvincing.

Sydney Morning Herald

RADIO & TV

Preview: Six hopefuls search for fame. *Desperately Seeking Stardom* (ITV, 10pm) **Review:** Paul Hoggart on the BBC's attempts to popularise science..............Pages 58, 59

OPINION

Break with Milosevic

The overthrow of Mr Milosevic is not a Nato war aim but that does not oblige Nato to talk to him. If Nato continues to treat the generator of conflicts as its interlocutor, it will show it is not serious about stabilising the Balkans..........Page 27

A healthy option

Few members of the Shadow Cabinet seem able to keep their heads when all about them are losing theirs. Ann Widdecombe is the exception.............................Page 27

Tale of a Teletubby

Harassed housewives should welcome the nomination of Anne Wood as Woman of the Year. She created Teletubbies...........Page 27

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

William Hague's problems are far deeper and more serious than the Tories' self-inflicted, and largely unnecessary, row of the past ten days.......................................Page 15

SIMON JENKINS

The chief case against Mr Hague is that he is doing appallingly in the polls. These polls used to be no more addictive to a politician than the occasional snort of cocaine. Today they are taken intravenously and with shared needles ... Page 26

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Instead of marking a resurgence of the far Right, the bombings are uniting the country in opposition to it...Page 26

PHILIP HOWARD

"Journalese" has been a snobbish insult since papers began. Queen Victoria would not have "the atrocious *Times*" in her palaces becase of what she deemed its disloyalty in opposing the appalling conduct of the Crimean War...............Page 26

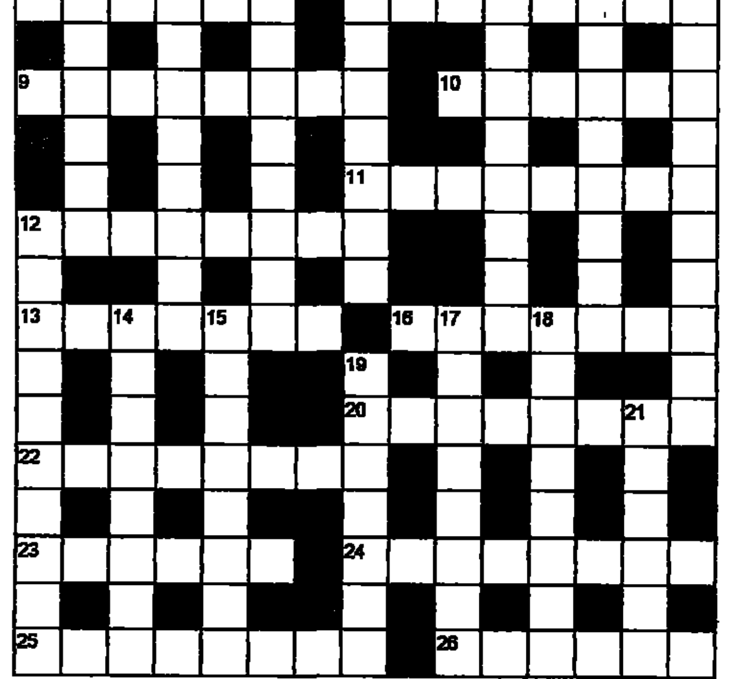
OBITUARIES

Sir William McCrea, cosmologist; **Peter Ware**, architect; **Brigadier the Hon Richard Hamilton Russell**, wartime tank commander; **Dr John Laws**, radiologist......Page 29

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,091



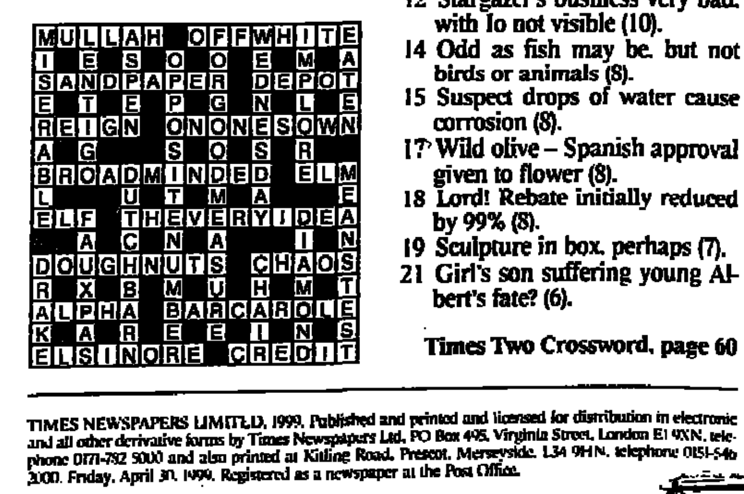
ACROSS

1 Hunter signed agreement accepting I am right (6).
5 Tract father with some speed leased out (8).
9 Start with actors like mine, taking it from the top (8).
10 Some drama Scott put in "The Talisman" (6).
11 That lady and I must get points – I'm starting now (4,4).
12 Car reversed, arrived outside plant (8).
13 Nepotism affected one dismissed – more than one worker given sack (7).
16 Stripper against going into water in Channel (7).
20 Abroad, has a supervisor's job, we hear (8).
22 It's the last drink that goes to one's head (8).
23 Being Red, for example, is non-U in America (6).
24 Almost everyone has confidence about one who is unselfish? (8).
25 Artifice whereby wandering sheep is penned (8).
26 Reprimand for sailor (6).

DOWN

2 I am familiar with a South African antelope (6).
3 What boxing promoters do in small car (8).
4 Denunciation of help with raising family (8).
5 American sportsman that can hold a lot of drink (7).
6 Quite a large helping – Paul left fragments (8).
7 Un jeu – kind of clue the French can comprehend (8).
8 Conspirator set it out as ordered (5,5).
12 Stargazer's business very bad, with Io not visible (10).
14 Odd as fish may be, but not birds or animals (8).
15 Suspect drops of water cause corrosion (8).
17 Wild olive – Spanish approval given to flower (8).
18 Lord! Rebate initially reduced by 99% (8).
19 Sculpture in box, perhaps (7).
21 Girl's son suffering young Albert's fate? (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,090



Times Two Crossword, page 60

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.35 am
Sun sets: 8.21 pm
Moon sets: 6.02 am
Moon rises: 8.06 pm

Full moon today

London 8.21 pm to 5.33 am
Bristol 8.31 pm to 5.43 am
Edinburgh 8.49 pm to 5.30 am
Manchester 8.36 pm to 5.35 am
Penzance 8.39 pm to 5.59 am



☐ General: fine across much of England and Wales and warm in western areas; northern England cloudier, with light rain this afternoon. Showers will edge towards southern coastal counties. Northern and eastern Scotland showery but west dry. Northern Ireland generally dry, with drizzle in north.

☐ **London, SE, Cent S England, E Midlands:** some sunshine after early mist, but slight risk of a shower later. Wind light, northeast. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **E Anglia, E, NW, Cent N England:** warm sunny spells, small risk of shower later. Wind light, northeast. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **W Midlands, S&N Wales:** some warm sunshine. Wind light, northeast. Max 20C (68F).

☐ **Channel Islands, SW England:** sunny spells but risk of showers, possibly with thunder inland, later. Wind moderate, northeast. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England:** spots of rain, clearing later. Wind light, northeast. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** light rain spreading southwards, but some bright spells. Wind light, northeast. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland:** sunny intervals, then cloud and showers. Wind light, northwest. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll:** cooler than recently with risk of showers. Wind light, north. Max 14C (57F).

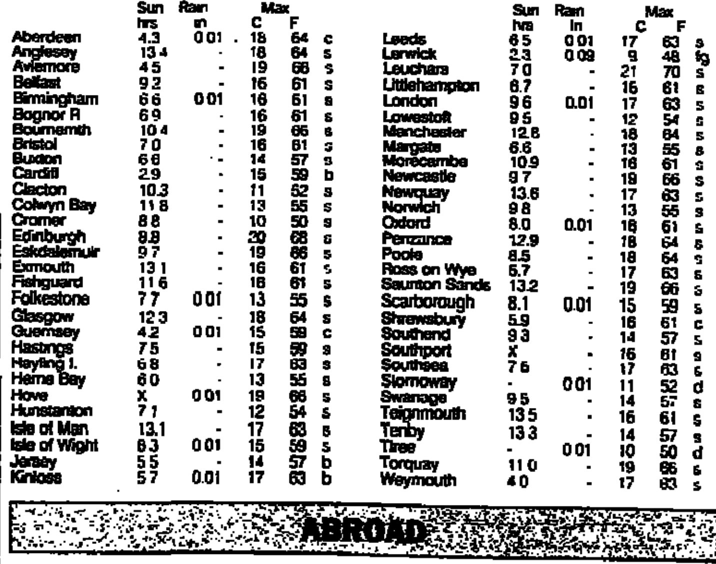
☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** fleeting sunny intervals and strong risk of showers. Wind light, northwest. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **N Ireland:** mostly cloudy, risk of drizzle in north. Wind moderate, north to northwest. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** sunny spells in south, perhaps drizzle in north. Wind northeast, light. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Outlook:** cooler tomorrow; eastern and northern regions will have showers; Wales and southwest England should have some sunshine. Sunday will be mostly dry, with sunshine after early fog, but north will be cloudier.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY



24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle; ds=dust storm, du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet, s=sun, t=thunder

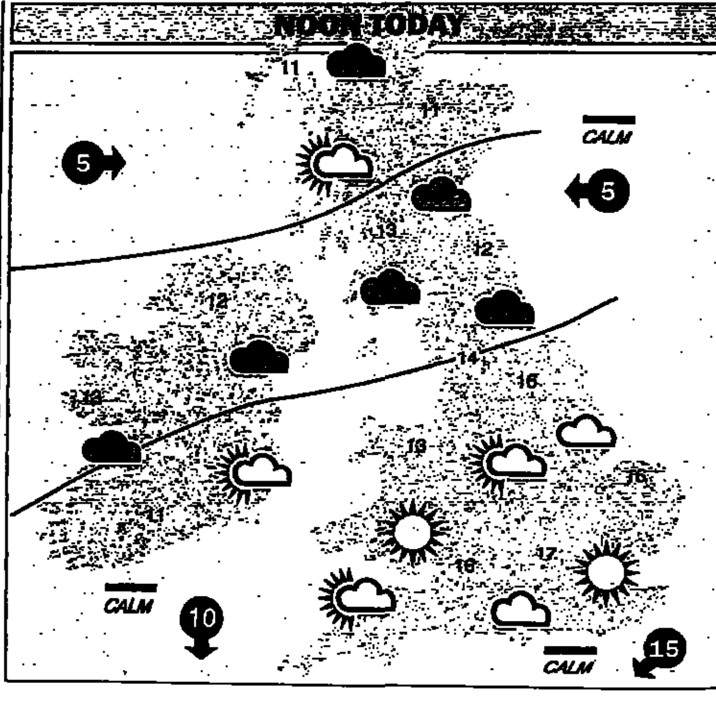
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	4.3	0.01	18	64	c	Leeds	6.5	0.01	17	63	s
Anglesey	13.4	-	18	64	s	Lerwick	2.3	0.09	9	48	fg
Aviemore	4.5	-	19	66	s	Leuchars	7.0	-	21	70	s
Belfast	9.2	-	16	61	s	Littlehampton	6.7	-	16	61	s
Birmingham	6.6	0.01	16	61	s	London	9.6	0.01	17	63	s
Bognor R	6.9	-	16	61	s	Lowestoft	9.5	-	12	54	s
Bournemth	10.4	-	19	66	s	Manchester	12.8	-	18	64	s
Bristol	7.0	-	16	61	s	Margate	6.6	-	13	55	s
Buxton	6.8	-	14	57	s	Morecambe	10.9	-	16	61	s
Cardiff	2.9	-	15	59	b	Newcastle	9.7	-	19	66	s
Clacton	10.3	-	11	52	s	Newquay	13.6	-	17	63	s
Colwyn Bay	11.8	-	13	55	s	Norwich	9.8	-	13	55	s
Cromer	8.8	-	10	50	s	Oxford	8.0	0.01	16	61	s
Edinburgh	8.8	-	20	68	s	Penzance	12.9	-	18	64	s
Eskdalemuir	9.7	-	19	66	s	Poole	8.5	-	18	64	s
Exmouth	13.1	-	16	61	s	Ross on Wye	5.7	-	17	63	s
Fishguard	11.6	-	16	61	s	Saunton Sands	13.2	-	19	66	s
Folkestone	7.7	0.01	13	55	s	Scarborough	8.1	0.01	15	59	s
Glasgow	12.3	-	18	64	s	Shrewsbury	5.9	-	16	61	c
Guernsey	4.2	0.01	15	59	c	Southend	9.3	-	14	57	s
Hastings	7.5	-	15	59	s	Southport	X	-	16	61	s
Hayling I.	6.8	-	17	63	s	Southsea	7.6	-	17	63	s
Herne Bay	6.0	-	13	55	s	Stornoway	-	0.01	11	52	d
Hove	X	0.01	19	66	s	Swanage	9.5	-	14	57	s
Hunstanton	7.1	-	12	54	s	Teignmouth	13.5	-	16	61	s
Isle of Man	13.1	-	17	63	s	Tenby	13.3	-	14	57	s
Isle of Wight	6.3	0.01	15	59	s	Tiree	-	0.01	10	50	d
Jersey	5.5	-	14	57	b	Torquay	11.0	-	19	66	s
Kinloss	5.7	0.01	17	63	b	Weymouth	4.0	-	17	63	s

ABROAD

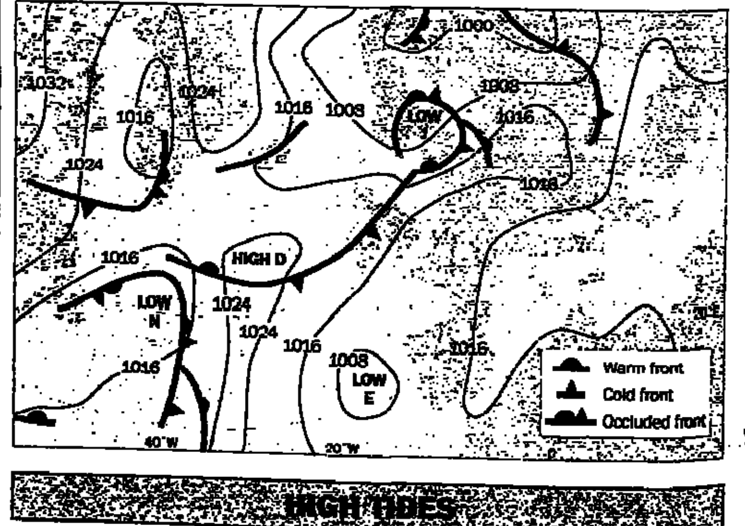
	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	21	70	f	Cologne	18	64	s	Madrid	14	57	f	Rome	22	72	f
Akrotiri	21	70	s	C'phegn	18	64	s	Majorca	25	77	s	Salzburg	16	61	f
Alex'dria	22	72	s	Corfu	22	72	s	Malaga	18	64	f	S Frisco	7	45	s
Algiers	22	72	f	Dublin	17	63	s	Malta	20	68	s	Santiago	24	75	s
Amst'dm	17	63	s	Dubrovnik	15	59	c	Melbourne	X			S Paulo	X		
Athens	22	72	s	Faro	14	57	r	Mexico C	25	77	f	Seoul	19	66	f
Bahrain	32	90	s	Florence	18	64	f	Miami	29	84	s	Singapore	32	90	f
Bangkok	32	90	f	Frankfurt	16	61	c	Milan	17	63	f	Stockholm	16	61	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Funchal	18	64	c	Montreal	15	59	s	Strasb'rg	19	66	f
Barcelona	19	66	f	Geneva	14	57	f	Moscow	21	70	f	Sydney	17	63	r
Beijing	23	73	f	Gibraltar	14	57	r	Munich	16	61	f	Tangier	12	54	c
Beirut	20	68	f	Helsinki	16	61	f	Nairobi	25	77	c	Tel Aviv	26	79	s
Belgrade	17	63	c	Hong K	25	77	c	Naples	25	77	s	Tenerife	21	70	f
Berlin	15	59	s	Innsbruck	17	63	f	N Delhi	39	102	s	Tokyo	22	72	s
Bermuda	19	66	s	Istanbul	18	64	f	N York	12	54	f	Toronto	14	57	s
Biarritz	13	55	c	Jeddah	33	91	s	Nice	19	66	f	Tunis	21	70	f
Bordeaux	17	63	f	Jo'burg	17	63	f	Oslo	13	55	s	Valencia	14	57	r
Brussels	16	61	f	L Palmas	22	72	c	Paris	18	64	s	Vanc'ver	10	50	s
Budapest	18	64	s	Le Touqt	17	63	f	Perth	22	72	s	Venice	16	61	f
B Aires	15	59	r	Lisbon	17	63	f	Prague	13	55	c	Vienna	17	63	f
Cairo	28	82	s	Locarno	15	59	s	Reykjavik	8	46	f	Warsaw	18	64	f
Cape Tn	27	81	s	L Angeles	12	54	s	Rhodes	22	72	s	Wash'ton	14	57	f
Chicago	7	45	f	Luxembg	16	61	c	Rio de J	22	72	f	Wel'ngton	16	61	X
Ch'church	12	54	c	Luxor	36	97	s	Riyadh	34	93	f	Zurich	15	59	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday. X = not available

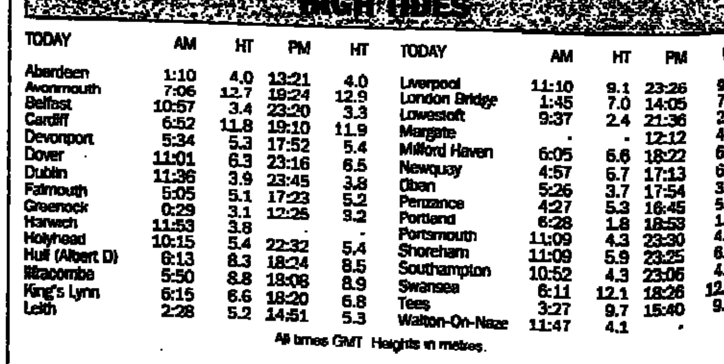
NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low N will move northeast and deepen; low E will drift south and fill; low J will transfer northeast and fill; high D will move east and build



HIGH TIDES



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	1:10	4.0	13:21	4.0	Liverpool	11:10	9.1	23:26	9.1
Avonmouth	7:06	12.7	19:24	12.9	London Bridge	1:45	7.0	14:05	7.2
Belfast	10:57	3.4	23:20	3.3	Lowestoft	9:37	2.4	21:36	2.4
Cardiff	6:52	11.8	19:10	11.9	Margate	-	-	12:12	4.6
Devonport	5:34	5.3	17:52	5.4	Milford Haven	6:05	6.6	18:22	6.7
Dover	11:01	6.3	23:16	6.5	Newquay	4:57	6.7	17:13	6.7
Dublin	11:36	3.9	23:45	3.8	Oban	5:26	3.7	17:54	3.8
Falmouth	5:05	5.1	17:23	5.2	Penzance	4:27	5.3	16:45	5.3
Greenock	0:29	3.1	12:25	3.2	Portland	6:28	1.8	18:53	1.9
Harwich	11:53	3.8	-	-	Portsmouth	11:09	4.3	23:30	4.5
Holyhead	10:15	5.4	22:32	5.4	Shoreham	11:09	5.9	23:25	6.0
Hull (Albert D)	6:13	8.3	18:24	8.5	Southampton	10:52	4.3	23:06	4.4
Ilfracombe	5:50	8.8	18:08	8.9	Swansea	6:11	12.1	18:26	12.1
King's Lynn	6:15	6.6	18:20	6.8	Tees	3:27	9.7	15:40	9.8
Leith	2:28	5.2	14:51	5.3	Walton-On-Naze	11:47	4.1	-	-

All times GMT Heights in metres.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: highest day temp: Charterhall (The Borders) 22C (72F); lowest day max: Lerwick (Shetland Is) Fair Isles (between Shetland And Orkney) Galloway 9C (48F); highest rainfall: Kirkwall (Orkney) 0.16ins; highest sunshine: Newquay (Cornwall) 13.6hrs.

Mahler at the double
Arts, page 39

BUSINESS • ARTS • MEDIA • SPORT • TELEVISION

THE TIMES

2

Yelland's first year
Media, page 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY APRIL 30 1999

Brown's policies 'jeopardise his aim to join euro'

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Chancellor's policies are threatening to undermine the Government's aim of joining the single currency despite an improving outlook for the British economy, a leading economic forecaster claims today.

Commentary 33

The National Institute for Economic and Social Research argues that, on current economic trends, the the gap between UK and European rates is likely to widen and that Gordon Brown risks taking Britain into European economic and monetary union (EMU) with an overvalued pound.

In its quarterly economic review, the institute is optimistic on the immediate outlook for the UK economy, expecting growth to reach 1.25 per cent this year, in line with the Chancellor's forecasts. Growth is then expected to rise to 2.4 per cent next year. However, the performance will conceal a marked difference between manufacturing, in which there is expected to be no return to growth before the end of next year, and robust growth in services. Unemployment is expected to rise only modestly.

The immediate inflation outlook also looks benign, with underlying inflation falling well below target to 1.8 per cent by the end of this year. However, the institute argues that the pace of the recovery has left little room for further interest rate cuts and that, with underlying inflation expected to veer slightly above target by the end of next year, UK rates will have to go up.

The institute claims that, as a result, "the evolving economic situation is starting to make EMU membership look more difficult". It argues that Mr Brown's failure to tighten the fiscal stance in the last Budget has made it less likely that rates will fall towards continental levels and has increased the chances that the pound will stay overvalued.

The institute is also heavily critical of the Chancellor's refusal to provide a steer on the likely sterling EMU entry rate, claiming that this is the "worst possible" approach to the euro. It gives warning that, on current market trends, sterling would join EMU at €1.42 — above the level commonly seen as competitive for British industry.

A lower, more competitive rate would require interest rates rising as high as 7.5 per cent just before entry, risking an inflationary boom once the UK is in the euro area.

However, the institute says that the Government could manage entry at a higher rate "if there is a credible policy commitment to an entry rate". This would allow "people to adjust their wage and price expectations".

LINKS
WEBSITE: www.niesr.ac.uk

THE London market's recent record run came to an abrupt halt yesterday, with the FTSE 100 tumbling by more than 100 points, led by poor figures from Unilever and Allied Domecq. Allied shares fell 31p to 478½p — or 6 per cent — after reporting a fall in interim pre-tax profits of 9 per cent on the back of a poor performance from its pubs business. The drinks group blamed poor consumer confidence either side of the turn of the year (Robert Lea writes).

Unilever blamed a collapse in the Brazilian ice cream market and the economic turmoils in Russia for a 4 per cent fall in first-quarter pre-tax profits. That prompted a fall of 33½p, or over 5.5 per cent, in the shares to 559½p.

The FTSE closed down by 101.2 at 6,497.6, having come off from the intra-day record on Tuesday of 6,635.9. The Dow Jones in New York came within 72 points of the 11,000 mark before falling back in after-lunch trading.

Airtours bid sparks price war by TTG

BY SAEED SHAH AND DOMINIC WALSH

THE UK travel industry was thrown into turmoil yesterday after Thomson Travel Group, the country's biggest tour operator, reacted to the announcement of a hostile bid by Airtours for First Choice Holidays by launching a price war.

The £852 million bid from Airtours, the number two in the market, would effectively knock Thomson off the perch it has occupied for 25 years and would make it the world's largest air-inclusive tour operator. The all-paper offer worth 229p a share had been widely expected ever since First Choice announced a recommended £1.5 billion merger with Kuoni, the Swiss travel group, a little more than a month ago.

Airtours said it has backing from shareholders speaking for 43.67 per cent of First Choice shares, including the 10 per cent held by Thomas Cook, owned by WestLB and Preussag of Germany, who have said they will not make a rival bid. The Thomas Cook holding is a legacy of the alliance struck when Airtours attempted to take over First Choice in 1993. First Choice's leading shareholders also include M&G and Phillips & Drew, the fund managers who together speak for 23.5 per cent of the company.

Thomson, however, said it would not stand idly by. At its annual meeting yesterday, Michael Brown, chairman, said: "We've been the market leader in the UK for 25 years, and we have no intention of surrendering this position."

The group said that its Thomson Holidays and Skytours holiday programmes for 2000 would go on sale next week with "substantially increased capacity and very attractive prices" and that it would be launching a new, no-frills, low-cost budget brand. A spokesman said: "What we have announced today is the first step in a strategy to ensure that we don't lose our position."

Commentary 33

Referring to the £35 million of cost savings identified by Airtours in its First Choice bid, the Thomson spokesman added: "We couldn't let a competitor increase their competitive position to the tune of £35 million without taking steps to become equally competitive ourselves."

The move was described by analysts as "extremely aggressive", with echoes of the price war that savaged the holiday sector in 1995. Thomson, whose shares lost 24p to 130½p, admitted that some of its shareholders had expressed concern over its move.

One large Thomson investor said: "My feeling is that this is a shameful destruction of shareholder value. Their position seems to be that it has to be number one for number one's sake, with a complete disregard for its own share price. This is the wilful destruction of what has been a very stable market since 1995."

Airtours said its bid offered a chunky premium of 53.9 per cent over the implied value of 148.8p for each First Choice share in the Kuoni deal. Analysts put the value of the Kuoni deal at nearer 185p a share but said that the Airtours offer was, nevertheless, generous.

There also remains the possibility that Thomson will launch its own bid for First Choice, although it knows it has virtually no hope of getting regulatory clearance. Airtours faces regulatory hurdles but is confident of getting approval. It said it would notify the European Commission of the bid, but would withdraw its offer if the EC launches an in-depth investigation or if the bid is referred to the UK's Competition Commission.

First Choice advised shareholders to wait for the initial verdict from Brussels, due in four to six weeks. It said it expected the bid to be blocked.

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Lord Hollick, chief executive of United News & Media, left, with Tony Tillen, chief executive of Miller Freeman Worldwide

United surges on $920m deal

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

SHARES of United News & Media surged in a falling market yesterday after the company paid $920 million (£570 million) in cash for CMP, a US technology publishing company with online interests.

The acquisition, United's largest since the purchase of the Blenheim group, which became part of Miller Freeman, two-and-a-half years ago, takes the company further into the business-to-business media market, which will now account for 58 per cent of group profits. The purchase of titles such as *Electronic Engineering Times*, *InformationWeek*, *Computer Reseller News* and the group's online brand CMP-Net, pushed United's share price up by 47p to 720p.

The members of the founding Leeds family have agreed to sell the 68 per cent of the stock they retained after CMP was floated two years ago.

United plans to keep CMP as a tracking stock — in which investors can invest in the flow of revenue and profits from the publishing company while United retains ownership of the equity. Lord Hollick, chief executive of United, said that the mechanism would not only help to set a value for CMP but would enable United to acquire other electronic assets. Lord Hollick said: "This is Web currency we are seeking to create," and added that he believed United was the first UK media company to have a tracking stock.

United said yesterday it believed it could raise the margins of the company from its present 6 per cent to 20 per cent while a $40 million profit improvement target has been set for CMP for 2000.

Lord Hollick said the increasing emphasis on business services would not weaken United's consumer publications such as *The Express* and its commercial television interests.

Tempus, page 34

Business Today

CHIROSCIENCE

Feeling no pain
Chiroscience is confident about the US launch of its anaesthetic

Page 36

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6497.6	(-101.2)
Yield	2.12%	
FTSE All Share	3004.86	(+36.98)
Nikkei	Closed	
New York:		
Dow Jones	10894.99	(+49.54)*
S&P Composite	1347.62	(-3.29)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4[illegible]%*	(4[illegible]%)
Long bond	95[illegible]*	(95[illegible])
Yield	5.53%*	(5.59%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5[illegible]%	(5[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	116.58	(116.08)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6107*	(1.6133)
London:		
$	1.6114	(1.6151)
€	1.5214	(1.5190)
SFr	2.4475	(2.4426)
Yen	191.95	(192.45)
£ Index	104.1	(104.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0599*	(1.0625)
SFr	1.5190*	(1.5125)
Yen	119.25*	(119.17)
$ index	108.3	(108.3)

Tokyo close Yen Closed

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul)	$16.20	($16.20)

GOLD

London close	$283.35	($282.45)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates .... Page 32

TIMES MONEY
www.times-money.co.uk

Mortgage industry braced for battle over tighter regulation

BY CAROLINE MERRELL, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE mortgage lending industry is on collision course with the Government over plans to introduce tighter regulation of loans to property buyers.

A report published yesterday, from the parliamentary cross-party joint committee on financial services and markets, recommends that home loans be brought under the jurisdiction of the Financial Services Authority (FSA), the new super regulator.

The committee headed by Lord Burns, a former permanent secretary to the Treasury, said that it saw no reason why mortgages should not come under the same regulatory regime as other investment products. If the committee's recommendation is included in the Financial Services and Markets Bill, the mortgage industry, comprising lenders and mortgage brokers, faces a big increase in costs, which could be passed on to customers.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), the trade organisation, said that it felt the Government should wait to see if a voluntary code of practice, introduced last year, has been effective. The CML said that the costs of bringing in new rules to govern mortgages could outweigh the benefits.

The British Bankers' Association (BBA) was also critical of the proposal. Tim Sweeney, the BBA director-general, said: "We are concerned at the cost and bureaucracy that would accompany the statutory regulation of mortgages."

The Consumers' Association, however, countered: "We strongly urge the Government to accept these recommendations. After a miserable history of mis-selling and consumer confidence at an all-time low, the FSA must turn round the financial services industry and provide strong regulation in the interests of consumers."

The FSA is planning to investigate the costs of tighter mortgage regulation. Howard Davies, FSA chairman, has estimated that the regulator will have to take on a further 200 staff to deal with the extra workload.

The report also felt that long-term care insurance should come under the remit of the FSA. It said: "Most purchasers will be financially naive: there will be scope for high-pressure selling to people who are elderly and vulnerable."

The committee also recommended separating the roles of chief executive and chairman at the FSA. Mr Davies currently holds both posts.

Commentary, page 33

'If you do that, you'll kill me'



Robert Maxwell pleaded with his bankers not to call in his debt. Just over two weeks later, he disappeared off his yacht.

The second extract from Goldman Sachs: The Culture of Success appears on page 35

Monsanto sucked into latest EU/US trade row

BY CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

MONSANTO, the leading producer of genetically modified soya, could be drawn into a new trade row between Brussels and Washington over the use of artificial hormones in milk.

The US agribusiness firm produces bovine somatotropin (BST), a hormone that boosts milk production in cows. Widely used in the US, the synthetic hormone is prohibited in the EU but the ban is due to expire at the end of the year.

The US is expected to challenge any attempt to renew the ban using World Trade Organisation procedures and EU officials, embroiled in a row over the European ban on imports of US beef, expect BST to be the next battleground.

Monsanto is in talks to sell its BST product to Eli Lilley, another US drug company. The milk yield-enhancing hormone is used by 13,000 US farmers and has been worth $200 million in sales to Monsanto. However, the European Commission is concerned that milk produced from BST-treated cows may cause cancer.

Washington and Brussels are still at loggerheads over a threat by Europe to extend its ban on hormone-treated US beef to imports of all beef of American provenance.

EU veterinary scientists discovered last month that samples of meat imported from the US and declared free of hormones contained residues of synthetic growth hormones, prohibited for health reasons under EU rules.

The EU spokesman said he expected an agreement before a ban is imposed on June 15. "The ball is in their court. We have to have stiffer controls and guarantees."

The WTO has ruled that the EU's ban on hormone-treated beef illegal. EU officials have indicated that they are unlikely to have sufficient scientific evidence to argue their case by a May 13 deadline and have offered to pay compensation to the US.

Names outperform corporates at Lloyd's

By Gavin Lumsden
Insurance Correspondent

NAMES, the dwindling band of wealthy individuals who risk unlimited losses in return for participating in the Lloyd's of London insurance market, have fared better in recent years than is widely appreciated.

Analysis published yesterday shows that names who remained in the market after the catastrophic losses of the early 1990s have not only enjoyed better returns recently but have done better than the quoted companies that have largely replaced names as the market's main source of capital since 1994.

According to AM Best International, an insurance rating agency, names achieved a return of 7.76 per cent of capacity in 1996 beating the 5.22 per cent made by corporates who only take on limited liability. Lloyd's three-year accounting cycle means that the result for 1997 is not yet known, although forecasts gathered in the study reveal that individuals who assume unlimited liability are expected to make an average of 3.32 per cent, trouncing the 1.45 per cent forecast for quoted corporates.

Measured on a capital return basis the difference in performance for 1996 is even more striking with names enjoying 25.9 per cent returns compared with 10.4 per cent for the corporates.

The research also shows that names who are advised by members' agents on which syndicates to back do far better than corporates picking capacity on their own. Names acting on advice made 7.25 per cent in 1996 and are forecast to make 2.79 per cent in 1997. By contrast, the corporates made just over 1 per cent in 1996 and will lose 0.5 per cent in 1997.

The figures will cheer many names who feel that they are being sidelined by the Corporation of Lloyd's and could undermine the trend for corporate players to buy syndicates and form mini-insurance companies known as "integrated Lloyd's vehicles".

Michael Deeny, chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members, which represents the majority of names and which commissioned the research, said: "The obvious conclusion is that to get the best return from Lloyd's it is preferable to be a name." Analysts disagreed and said that as corporates control three-quarters of capacity at Lloyd's they were involved in better-quality business than three years ago.

Ashcroft hedges his bets in new CSG offer

By Paul Armstrong

MICHAEL ASHCROFT, the business tycoon, has sought to hedge his bets in the battle for control of The Corporate Services Group by lifting substantially the cash component of his £250 million takeover offer for the company.

The move is designed to elicit acceptances from the big band of institutions believed to be opposed to his bid for the embattled employment company. But Mr Ashcroft has also created what is effectively an escape route from the CSG saga. He has attached a series of conditions to the bid which will almost certainly ensure it fails in the event that CSG's existing management is replaced.

The two-pronged strategy is aimed at avoiding a scenario under which Mr Ashcroft succeeds in taking over CSG but is forced to inherit a new management team.

Mr Ashcroft's takeover vehicle, New Carlisle, unveiled an alternative offer yesterday, of which cash accounts for up to 75 per cent of the package. This compares with a cash component of up to 40 per cent in the initial bid.

Both offers value CSG shares at about 120p, depending on how the paper component is calculated. CSG shares closed yesterday at 89½p.

However, New Carlisle said it would be prepared to proceed with its revised bid only if resolutions to appoint three new directors to the CSG board were defeated at a meeting on May 4.

If any of the proposed directors were appointed, New Carlisle said it would leave only its initial offer on the table.

However, New Carlisle has all but ended the original offer's chance of success by saying that it would be open for just 21 days from the time that it was posted.

There is also a string of other conditions attached to this bid, including a minimum acceptance level of 90 per cent.

Some sources close to the complex battle claim that shareholders representing as much as 60 per cent of CSG's issued stock plan to vote in favour of appointing the three new directors. But others believe there are many institutions that would be willing to sell their stock to New Carlisle for £1 or, in some cases, slightly more.

Yesterday's statement from New Carlisle said nothing to suggest that the revised bid would be its final offer. It is understood that Mr Ashcroft might be willing to raise the offer to £1 or so if he thought it would be sufficient to win control of CSG.

GAVIN FOGG

Nigel Newton and knight publicising a 16 per cent profit rise by Bloomsbury, which aims to grow in electronic publishing

Bloomsbury ready for take-off

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

THE *Encarta World English Dictionary*, which claims to be the most up-to-date lexicon of usage of the language both here and in America is ready for launch and should see a big upsurge in revenues for Bloomsbury, the London publishing house.

The work will be published simultaneously in print and electronic form, and in English and American editions, in a joint venture by Bloomsbury and Microsoft.

Nigel Newton, chief executive of Bloomsbury, yesterday said that the dictionary was on schedule for publication on September 13. He reported that more than 400,000 copies had been presold already and that the lavishly illustrated work is expected to generate revenues of £40 million for Bloomsbury over the next decade.

The new dictionary launch comes as Bloomsbury prepares to publish the third book about Harry Potter, a boy wizard. The first two adventures in the series by J. K. Rowling, which were turned down by a number of publishers, have sold 763,000 copies and Warner Brothers has bought the film rights for a seven-figure sum. Mr Newton said: "I predict that the series will be bigger than *The Chronicles of Narnia* or *Star Wars*."

Bloomsbury yesterday announced a 16 per cent increase in its pre-tax profit, to £1.6 million, for 1998. Turnover rose by 11 per cent, to £15.2 million. The final dividend is unchanged at 2.9p, making 3.7p (3.6p).

Although book publishing remains at the heart of Bloomsbury business, Mr Newton said that the company's ambition is to become one of the leading players in electronic publishing.

The shares, which have more than tripled over the past 15 months, put on another 12p yesterday to close at 204½p.

Amvescap hit by trackers

By Gavin Lumsden

SHARES of Amvescap, the Anglo-American fund management group, fell 16½p to 666p yesterday as the company revealed its US business was continuing to suffer at the hands of low-cost tracker fund managers.

Amvescap saw a net outflow of $1.3 billion (£800 million) of funds in the first three months of the year, as clients transferred to better performing rivals. This is on top of net losses last year of $3.1 billion.

The company has now merged Chancellor, the main subsidiary hit by the losses, into the rest of its US institutional division. Bob McCullough, chief financial officer, said the impact on earnings was minimal as the company had won new, higher-margin funds to replace the losses.

Despite the setback in the US, Amvescap said that all parts of the group had achieved record operating profits. Group revenue for the first quarter increased to £241.1 million from £162.1 million last year, pushing pre-tax profits up £13.8 million to £69.7 million. Diluted earnings per share before the amortisation of goodwill arising from the acquisition of GT Global rose 18 per cent to 7.1p.

Shell cuts its US interests

By Carl Mortished

SHELL has sold a big slice of its Gulf of Mexico exploration interests to Apache for $715 million (£447 million) plus a million Apache shares. The deal halves the Anglo-Dutch group's acreage in the sought-after US oil province, where it was previously the largest operator.

The sale is part of an initiative to improve the performance of SEPCo, Shell's US exploration arm. The financial performance of Shell Oil, the US subsidiary, had been criticised after it suffered losses from big investments. The subsidiary, which had enjoyed considerable autonomy within Shell, has recently been brought under tighter control.

Shell is selling 22 producing fields, of which 18 are operated by the Anglo-Dutch company, and 16 exploration leases.



Telecom Italia forced to review defence strategies

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

INVESTMENT banking advisers to Telecom Italia are beginning to dust off discarded defence strategies as diplomatic wrangling between the German and Italian governments threatens the merger with Deutsche Telekom.

Bankers are understood to be toying with new versions of a leveraged buyout of the Italian utility. One source close to the company remarked: "In hindsight, investors may regret they spurned the original plan to gear up the company and buy in TIM [its mobile phone affiliate]." The original defence to the Olivetti takeover plan collapsed when investors failed to turn up to a general meeting in sufficient numbers to achieve a quorum.

A strategy involving the creation of a new company that would launch a cash and share bid for Telecom Italia could be revived if the merger with Deutsche fails.

The formal launch today of the $65 billion (£40 billion) Olivetti bid for Telecom Italia will provide further evidence that the merger with Deutsche hangs in the balance. Telecom Italia's formal defence, currently being examined by Consob, the Italian regulator, fails to directly criticise the Olivetti offer price of €11.50 per share. The value of Deutsche's offer has recently fallen to less than €12. Instead, Telecom Italia attacks the structure of the Olivetti offer, claiming that the large cash element will deprive investors of future upside and growth in the telecoms sector.

Talks yesterday revealed that the Italian Government is still demanding conditions from Germany prior to its assent to a merger.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Banks announce cuts in saving rates

LEADING banks yesterday announced that savings rates will fall again tomorrow, in some cases by much more than the cut in their mortgage rates on the same day. Halifax will be dropping savers' returns by as much as a quarter of a percentage point for some savers, although its borrowers will only see cuts of 0.1 per cent. Savers with Abbey National will see falls of up to 0.2 per cent in their returns while Lloyds TSB has already cut some of its savings rates by as much as 0.35 per cent. The Abbey National will be making the same 0.1 per cent cut in its mortgage rate while Cheltenham & Gloucester, the mortgage arm of Lloyds TSB, will reduce the cost of borrowing by 0.14 per cent.

Yorkshire Bank cut its savers' returns by between 0.25 and 0.3 per cent two weeks ago. But will not reduce its mortgage rate by 0.25 per cent until May 4. Northern Rock, which will be cutting its mortgage rates, is expected to drop savings returns. However, the bank has yet to make an announcement. Doug Conquer, an independent financial adviser at Clark Conway, said: "If the rate cut is not passed on to borrowers, then it is unreasonable to pass it on to their savers."

Security rule invoked

EUROPEAN regulators will not have access to the military aspects of British Aerospace's £7.7 billion merger with GEC's Marconi defence electronics business, it was announced yesterday. The Department of Trade and Industry has invoked a law allowing a European Commission member state to rule domestically on aspects of mergers that have national security implications. The DTI will now report on the deal to Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and recommend whether it should go to the Competition Commission.

Internet boosts MCI

MCI WorldCom Inc reported a better than expected, threefold increase in first-quarter profits, driven by the benefits of last year's acquisition of MCI Communications Corp and strong growth in data and Internet services. MCI WorldCom, America's second largest long-distance company, said first-quarter profits increased to $688 million (£427 million), compared with pro forma profits of $169 million a year ago. Revenues increased 14.7 per cent to $8.3 billion, compared with pro forma revenues of $7.3 billion a year ago.

Hambros sues Coutts

SG HAMBROS is suing Coutts, the Queen's banker, over the sale of the bank's Bahamas-based subsidiary for £62 million at the end of last year. In a writ, issued in the High Court last month, SG Hambros claims that Coutts "fraudulently misrepresented" the division and made "false representations" about the sales and assets of the private bank. Coutts Bahamas, now called SG Bank and Trust Bahamas, is one of the world's oldest private offshore banks. Coutts said: "We categorically reject the claims made against us."

Principal eyes UK

THE Principal Financial Group, the eighth-largest life insurer in the US, is seeking to enter the UK pensions market with an acquisition or by forming an alliance, it has announced. Principal, a mutual insurer and the largest manager of flexible 401K pension plans in the US, wants to exploit the introduction of stakeholder pensions, which the Government is modelling on 401K plans, in two years' time. Ned Burmeister, Principal's pension executive, said that the group was evaluating its options and aimed to launch in the UK later this year.

Aer Lingus alliance

AER LINGUS, the Republic of Ireland's state-owned airline, plans to join Oneworld, the world's largest airline alliance, whose members include British Airways. The move is intended to give the carrier greater global reach. The plan must now be submitted to Mary O'Rourke, Ireland's Public Enterprise Minister, for approval. Analysts have suggested BA may buy a 10 per cent stake costing about £60 million, with American Airlines, another Oneworld member, taking a 5 per cent stake.

Revlon deeper in red

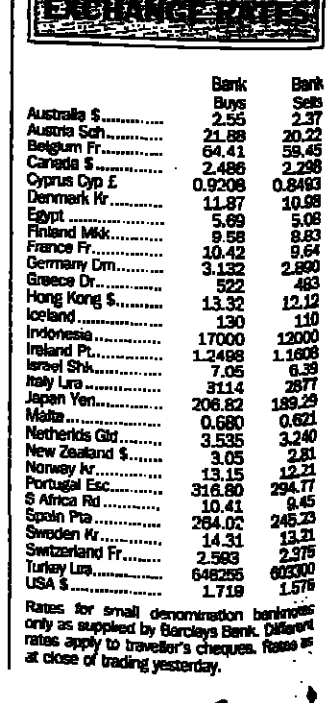
REVLON, the ailing US cosmetics firm seen as a possible takeover target for Unilever, yesterday reported more than doubled losses for the first quarter. Revlon, controlled by Ronald Perelman, the billionaire, has instructed investment bankers at Goldman Sachs and Lazard Frères to explore the possibility of selling assets to reduce debt. Revlon's loss from continuing operations rose from $15.3 million to $34.2 million, on reduced sales of $441.1 million. It said that retailers had been running down existing stock, rather than reordering.

BA catchphrase upheld

RICHARD BRANSON, chairman of Virgin Atlantic, has failed in his latest attempt to stop British Airways using the phrase "the world's favourite airline". BA said it had received a letter from the Advertising Standards Authority saying that it had rejected Mr Branson's attempt to prevent it using the slogan, the fourth time it had done so since 1991. The airline introduced the slogan in 1983, which is based on International Air Transport Association figures that show that more people fly from more places around the world chose to fly with BA.

Tempo's Net offer

COMPUTER USERS are to be offered free Internet access and free off-peak local telephone calls to their access provider by Tempo, the electrical retail chain in which 3i, the venture capitalist, has a big stake. The service, called screaming.net, will be provided with Localtel, a small telephone company set up in November, and users must use Localtel for all their telephone calls. Calls to the company's help desk will cost 50p a minute. Michael Kraftman, Tempo deputy chairman, said: "The Internet is the fastest-growing medium in the Nineties."



EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.55	2.37
Austria Sch	21.88	20.22
Belgium Fr	64.41	59.45
Canada $	2.486	2.298
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9208	0.8493
Denmark Kr	11.87	10.98
Egypt	5.69	5.08
Finland Mkk	9.58	8.83
France Fr	10.42	9.64
Germany Dm	3.132	2.890
Greece Dr	522	483
Hong Kong $	13.32	12.12
Iceland	130	110
Indonesia	17000	12000
Ireland Pt	1.2498	1.1608
Israel Shk	7.05	6.39
Italy Lira	3114	2877
Japan Yen	206.82	189.29
Malta	0.680	0.621
Netherlds Gld	3.535	3.240
New Zealand $	3.05	2.81
Norway Kr	13.15	12.21
Portugal Esc	316.80	294.77
S Africa Rd	10.41	9.45
Spain Pta	264.02	245.23
Sweden Kr	14.31	13.21
Switzerland Fr	2.583	2.375
Turkey Lira	646255	603300
USA $	1.719	1.576

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Not well endowed



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Tradition has it that those *who sell mortgages* are a different species from those who sell unit trusts or insurance policies. The second group are at heart rogues and charlatans, whose behaviour is only restrained by the tightest of regulation. The former are kindly souls whose aim is to ensure that everyone has a roof over their heads at the least onerous price. Lord Burns does not believe in such fairy stories. The former Perma*nent Secretary to the Treasury* wants to see mortgages subject to the same regulation as other financial products, and quite right too.

The mortgage lenders will squeal in horror at the recommendation of the Joint Committee on Financial Services and Markets that their operations *should be brought within the* scope of the Financial Services Authority. They are happy with life under a voluntary code of conduct and will insist that coping with the requirements of the FSA will add to the cost of mortgages, thus penalising the very people it intends to safeguard.

That view will grate with the thousands who now find themselves having to increase the payments on their endowment policies in order to have any hope of paying off the mortgage when its term expires. The argument will be wasted on the very many endowment mortgagees who have not yet realised that they were sold a duff product and that there is a nasty financial shock ahead of them.

It is because of that misplaced trust that the principle of *caveat emptor* cannot be allowed free rein in the financial markets. And since a mortgage is the largest financial purchase that most individuals make during their lifetime, it is right that it should be governed by the FSA. When she was running the Personal Investment Authority, now sub*sumed into the FSA, Collette* Bowe maintained that this was the only logical position but met with the same industry opposition which is *now mustering. It* must not be allowed to stop Lord Burns's recommendation being implemented.

At their height, at the end of the 1980s, 80 per cent of mortgages sold were endowments, not because they were what best served the customers but because the commissions were attractive. There is a clear parallel with the pedalling of personal pensions — except for the fact that there has been no naming and shaming of the culprits and no compensation for the victims.

Building societies may once have been kindly organisations geared to the needs of their members. Now they are different beings, many of them banks, with shareholders to satisfy. Whatever they might mouth about putting the customer first, it will do the customer no harm to have the FSA on side.

OFT ready for Airtours rematch

Even when it comes to takeover bids, it seems, the brochure offers of package holiday operators lack credibility. Airtours has been the wolf at the door at the wedding of First Choice and Switzerland's Kuoni since before the event was announced, ever so discreetly, while the Chancellor was delivering his Budget seven weeks ago. Airtours's David Crossland first vainly bid for First Choice, then called Owners Abroad, in 1992.

Now that Airtours had tabled a one-for-two share swap offer, its own shares fell 6 per cent to 431p, yet First Choice barely struggled up past 200p.

Airtours has won heavy conditional support, which suggests *the Kuoni deal is off. Thomson* has already made counterbidding noises. Support for Airtours from the Germans who control Thomas Cook suggests it has different bidding ideas. So why is the market cautious?

Investors fear that the competition regulators will break up the party and tell everyone to quieten down and go back to their rooms. There is certainly room and opportunity for much bigger companies to emerge in the international holiday market. Since it stabilised, it is surprising that top leisure groups have not been *tempted. In the UK, however, the* market is already highly concentrated. Depending how you count, Airtours plus Thomson could control up to 60 per cent.

History is politically embarrassing too. When Mr Crossland first bid for Owners Abroad, his local Tatton constituency MP hap*pened to be the Corporate Affairs* Minister. The DTI gave pre-guidance that it was happy with the deal before Neil Hamilton — for it was indeed he — withdrew from the decision in case conflict of interest might be perceived. The OFT upturned the DTI guidance, asking for a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which was promptly refused by Michael Heseltine, then Mr Hamilton's boss. There are still folk at the OFT who bridle at the memory and have Mr Cross*land in their sights. So too may* Ian McCartney, a current Minister of State at the DTI and one of several members of the present Government who got up an angry motion deploring the affair six long years ago.

EMU cloud on Brown's horizon

The gloom that until recently shrouded the economy has lifted so rapidly that it was almost a shock yesterday to be reminded by some poor corporate results of how perilously close we *came to recession. Yet forecasters* as respected as the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) are now forecast*ing that the country is on course for* not just the fabled "soft landing" but a swift return to robust growth.

What more could Chancellor Gordon Brown ask for? Reasonable growth, subdued inflation and relatively low levels of interest rates should be a winning political formula. But that depends on what political battle is being fought. The NIESR believes Mr Brown may be presiding over a blossoming economy but at the price of another ambition.

Current economic policies are simply not compatible with a smooth journey into the single currency. The Chancellor's failure to tighten fiscal policy at the last Budget will ensure the gap between British and European rates widens as growth picks up. An absence of leadership on sterling's EMU entry rate means that Britain now risks repeating the mistakes of the ERM fiasco if it were to press ahead and join with sterling overvalued.

That prospect should help Mr Blair when he frames the crucial referendum question.

One to remember

ROBERT MAXWELL convinced one of the masters of the Universe *that he was not bad, mere*ly misunderstood. Goldman Sachs has more than recovered from its encounter with the fat fraud (*detailed on page 35*) and is now headed for a very successful flotation. Yet there would have been no Maxwell problem if the firm's attitude had been dictated by the wary many rather than the greedy one. A message for the new non-execs to keep high on the agenda.

WH Smith may drop its buyback

By Fraser Nelson

WH SMITH may abandon its £100 million share buyback programme because it believes that its shares have risen to levels at which they are now too expensive.

The company, whose shares have been swept ahead 46 per cent in the past four months on the back of its Internet ambitions, has decided to put the programme on hold after buying £40 million of shares.

The remaining £60 million could be put towards a £500 million war chest earmarked for acquisitions that would bolster its Internet businesses.

Richard Handover, chief executive, said: "We have a method for working out the *shareholder value created* through buybacks. At a certain share price level, the value created becomes dubious. *That's where we are now.*"

Mr Handover added that the group is still seeking ways to spend the £280 million of *cash in the bank.*

City analysts suspect that WH Smith is close to buying another small electronic pub*lishing house after January's* £5.6 million acquisition of Helicon Publishing. That deal prompted a £660 million increase in WH Smith's market valuation.

The group also said that it intends to sell its books through Open, the digital television service developed by British Interactive Broadcasting.

WH Smith's shares have risen from 500p to a high of 766p since the Helicon deal, amid hopes that it may become a leading Internet player.

However, the shares yesterday fell 25p, to 756½p, as the company reported pre-tax profits of £105 million, down from £128 million, for the six months to February 28.

The group blamed the downturn on the absence of Virgin/*Our Price stores, which were* sold last July. Underlying profits, it said, grew to £95 million (£85 million).

The newly acquired John Menzies shops did badly, after problems bedding them down with the rest of the WH Smith *high street network. They de*livered £5 million profit for the half-year, against £8 million under Menzies' control.

Earnings per share were 30.1p (30p). The interim dividend rises to 5.75p (5.23p).

Alfred McAlpine turns down bid

PHILLIPS & Drew Fund Management (PDFM) is attempt*ing to broker a takeover of Al*fred McAlpine, the civil engineer and housebuilder in which it has a near-24 per cent stake (*Martin Barrow writes*).

McAlpine yesterday said that it had rejected a 215.2p-a-share cash offer from an unnamed bidder that claims to have the backing of PDFM. *McAlpine, whose chairman is* Sir Terence Harrison, said that the approach was "opportunistic" and that it "substantially undervalues the business". The McAlpine board is being advised by HSBC.

The prospect of a takeover battle for McAlpine sent its shares up sharply yesterday. They rose by 37½p, to 230p, having been just 106p as recently as last *September*. Yesterday's closing price suggests a bid of about £260 million, but this may go higher if a rival bidder emerges. Analysts believe that an offer would *have to be about 270p* a share to draw broader support.

The PDFM-backed bidder is thought to be a financial buyer, but venture capital firms, including Alchemy and Nomura, were ruled out. A financial *buyer would probably aim to* break up McAlpine, whose 1998 turnover is estimated to have risen above £700 million.

Other significant McAlpine shareholders include Grove family interests, with almost 10 per cent, and Prudential, with almost 5 per cent.

MBO bid poised to win Hall

By Matthew Barbour

TT GROUP'S long-running efforts to take over Hall Engineering lost steam yesterday after John Sword, Hall's chief executive, put in an increased management buyout offer.

Acertec, the buyout vehicle led by Mr Sword and backed by Candover Partners, the venture capital group, has raised its cash bid to 170p per share from 155p, a premium of 25 per cent over TT's latest hostile offer of 136p per share. *The MBO offer* has secured acceptances representing 52 per cent of Hall's shares. They are irrevocable un*less a counterbid of at least 187p* is tabled. Shares in Hall yesterday closed up 13p at 168p.

☐ TT meanwhile turned its attentions to Prestwick Holdings yesterday, rescuing the the electronics company that has been facing insolvency with an offer valuing it at £700,000. Prestwick said that if the offer is not accepted it can see no alternative way to raise the capital needed to keep it afloat.

KPMG to launch law firm

By Robert Bruce

KPMG, the accountancy firm, has poached six senior lawyers from one of its greatest competitors, PricewaterhouseCoopers, to launch its own associate UK law firm, to be called KLegal.

The six lawyers, including two banking specialists, represent almost *half* the partners of what used to be the Price Waterhouse law firm before it merged with Coopers & *Lybrand last year to become* Arnheim Tite & Lewis. The firm of KLegal will be launched as soon as the team can extri*cate itself from* PricewaterhouseCoopers and will link in with KPMG's legal network of some 1,350 lawyers worldwide.

Efforts by UK accounting firms to merge with large UK law firms have mostly failed.

Ian Barlow, head of tax and legal services at KPMG, said: "We are starting a fresh firm with six partners so that we can build it from scratch in a way which benefits our existing services."

First-quarter decline hits Unilever shares

SHARES in Unilever lost 6 per cent in value after the food and soap company reported a dip in sales in the first quarter and a 4 per cent slide in pretax profits to £666 million (Carl Mortished writes).

Unilever attempted to shrug off the 1 per cent decline in revenues, mainly a result of weakness in Eastern Europe and a collapse in ice cream sales in Brazil.

The company said the slowdown compared with very strong gains in the first quarter in 1998, when sales grew 8 per cent and profits surged 41 per cent. A spokesman said: "For the remainder of the year we expect to re-establish topline growth."

The collapse in the Russian economy hit Unilever's volumes in central and Eastern Europe while the Brazilian economic crisis held back growth in Latin America. The crisis in the Far East had a delayed impact as many customers were stockpiling in the first quarter of last year. However, the company said it was seeing signs of recovery in the Far East.



PowerGen weakens as FTSE drops 101 points

POWERGEN should today announce the disposal of two power stations for about £1.5 billion.

The power generator was ordered by the Government to dispose of the two stations — Ferrybridge in West Yorkshire and Fiddlers Ferry on Merseyside — as a condition of its acquisition of East Midlands Electricity being allowed to proceed. The Government set a deadline for PowerGen of the end of April, for the disposals to be completed.

The buyer of both stations is reckoned to be Mission Energy of the US, part of Edison International. It already owns First Hydro, the Welsh hydroelectricity station.

PowerGen fell 9½p to 695½p on turnover of more than two million shares. It has been talking this week to fund managers, having seen its share price drop from a peak of 905p in January.



Ed Wallis, chairman of PowerGen, is expected to announce the disposal of two power stations. The shares declined 9½p

London Clubs, the casino operator, stood out with a jump of 13p to 159½p in heavy turnover of 3.67 million shares. Talk of a management buyout has been discounted and the latest whisper is of a possible Singaporean buyer.

The speculators were also out in force for **London International Group** with the price up 8p at 178½p. Once again turnover was heavy with 4.86 million shares changing hands. Word is an overseas buyer is ready to offer 225p a share for the Durex condom maker. That would value the business at £781 million.

Elsewhere, it was time for the profit-takers to move in after several days of impressive gains. Attempts at a rally, on the back of firmer trading in New York where the economic numbers were encouraging, proved short-lived.

The FTSE 100 index closed near its low point of the day with a fall of 101.2 at 6,497.6. By contrast, the FTSE 250 index rose 2.9 to 5,816.6 as a total of 1.09 billion shares changed hands.

Blue chips have led the market higher this week, so it was natural that they should suffer the heaviest falls yesterday. **Allied Domecq** fell 31p to 478½p on the back of its downbeat results. But there were also losses for **Rentokil Initial**, 19¾p at 359¼p, **BT**, 52p to £10.25, **Compass**, 32p to 633p, and **Daily Mail Trust**, 112p to £32.87.

But fund managers remain upbeat about prospects medium term. About £2 billion worth of special dividends are due to be paid next month and most of that will find its way back into the market. The Prudential announced earlier this week that Egg, its direct banking arm, had also raised £5 billion to invest.

Heavy selling of drug companies overnight in the US left **Glaxo Wellcome** 85p down at £18.43, **AstraZeneca** 100p at £24.10, and **SmithKline Beecham** 25p at 815½p.

Marks & Spencer came under fresh selling pressure with the price dropping 19¼p to 430p as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, began urging clients to switch into **Great Universal Stores**, down 10½p at 697p. BT Alex Brown has also been a seller of M&S.

The speculators piled in after **Alfred McAlpine**, up 37½p at 230p, announced that it had rejected an "unsolicited" bid approach worth just over 215p a share. Phillips & Drew's fund management arm holds about 24 per cent of the shares.

Travis Perkins responded to a "buy" recommendation from Warburg Dillon Reed, the broker, with a rise of 46p at 652½p. Earlier this week the company bought Keyline from CRH as the first step to becoming the second-biggest builder's merchant in the country.

Severfield Reeve defied the trend with a rise of 37½p at 417½p. The engineer is midway through a series of City presentations for brokers and fund managers.

Elsewhere in the engineering sector, **Expamet International** has been enjoying the revival in cyclical stocks. It rose 11p to 128½p yesterday and has come up from the 98p level during the past few weeks alone.

One of the biggest falls on the day was seen in **ECsoft Group**, down 275p, or almost 19 per cent, at £11.87½p. US brokers are taking an increasingly cautious view of prospects with Warburg Dillon Inc downgrading from "strong buy" to "hold".

Autologic celebrated positive news with a jump of 21p to 360p. The car transporter group has been awarded a contract to move Ford's vehicles around the country.

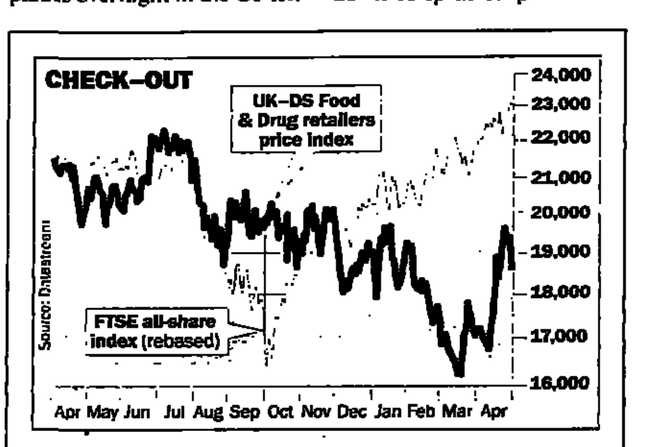
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices recovered some of the lost ground given up after the poor reception given to Wednesday's auction of £500 million of index-linked stock.

Prices at the longer end enjoyed the best support with gains stretching to more than £1 helped by the first-quarter US employment numbers. Dealers said Wednesday's sell-off had been overdone.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt rose 50p to £116.58 as a total of 32,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues Treasury 7 per cent 2002 put on 13p at £105.89, while at the longer end Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose £1.21 to £146.33.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Strong cyclical issues and reassuring employment costs data helped the Dow Jones industrial average *to rise 49.54 points, to 10,894.99,* by midday.



THE big supermarket chains appear to have reached their sell-by date, with a number of brokers beginning to turn cautious of the sector.

They suffered some of the biggest falls yesterday, with Tesco down 9¼p at 177½p, J Sainsbury 20¼p at 380½p, Asda 5p at 203p and Somerfield 4½p at 356½p.

Earlier this week HSBC Securities, the broker, downgraded its recommendation on Tesco from *"add" to "hold"* and yesterday reiterated its decision to "reduce" in Sainsbury.

The absence of any move by the US retail giant Wal-Mart to bid for either Asda or Safeway has also prompted investors to take profits and move back into other defensive sectors.

Safeway, down 5¼p at 253p, has stepped up competitive pressure with a new promotion. It is offering double and treble bonus points to customers for every £200 or £300 spent. The move follows similar *moves by Tesco and Asda.*

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 10894.99 (+49.54)
S&P Composite 1347.62 (-3.29)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average Closed

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 13179.70 (+46.31)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index 573.52 (-2.01)

Sydney:
AO 3104.9 (-17.8)

Frankfurt:
DAX 5334.42 (-14.19)

Singapore:
Straits 1818.49 (-18.67)

Brussels:
BEL20 3233.43 (-4.04)

Paris:
CAC-40 4371.53 (-3.17)

Zurich:
SMI Index 7304.6 (-56.3)

London:

FT 30	4052.5 (-70.1)
FTSE 100	6497.6 (-101.2)
FTSE 250	5816.6 (+2.9)
FTSE 350	3100.9 (-40.6)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3043.06 (-30.92)
FTSE All-Share	3004.86 (-36.98)
FTSE Non Financials	3009.81 (-36.20)
FTSE Fixed Interest	154.18 (-0.31)
FTSE Govt Secs	110.54 (-0.45)
Bargains	77697
SEAQ Volume	1099.7m
US$	1.6109 (-0.0044)
Euro	0.6573 (-0.0011)
£:SDR	1.1946
Exchange Index	104.1 (Same)

Bank of England official close (4pm)
RPI 164.1 Mar (2.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 163.2 Mar (2.7%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Affinity Internet	208½	+ 32
Br Smaller Co's VCT (100)	95	.
Br Smlr Cos VCT Wrts	12½	..
Cairngorm Euro Restruct	112½	...
Cairngorm Restruct Wrts	25½	...
Edinburgh Inc & Val	110	...
Edinburgh Val Zero Dv Pf	106½	...
Fleming I & G Units 2006	648	...
Gartmore High Income	111	...
Gartmore Zero Div Pf	109	..
Halifax Non Cum Pf	99¾	– ¾
Northern 2 VCT	100	...
Sherry FitzGerald	142	...
Sports Internet	186½	...
Triven VCT	100	...
Voyager 2000	10	+ 1½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Calluna n/p (125)	5	+ ¾
Ennex International n/p (IR5p)	3	+ ½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
A de Gruchy	285	+ 60	+ 26.6
McAlpine (A)	230	+ 37½	+ 19.4
Alumasc	117½	+ 17	+ 16.9
Virtual Interne	247½	+ 35	+ 16.4
Swallowfield	72½	+ 10	+ 16.0
Connaught	203	+ 18	+ 9.7
Ranger	308¾	+ 25¾	+ 9.0
Lavendon	436	+ 36	+ 9.0
Diploma	158½	+ 13	+ 8.9
Carclo Eng	146½	+ 12	+ 8.9
London Clubs	159½	+ 13	+ 8.8
Billiton	206¾	+ 16¾	+ 8.8
Hall Eng	168	+ 13	+ 8.3
Brit Amer Tob	544	+ 39	+ 7.7
Travis Perkins	652½	+ 46	+ 7.5
S & U	262½	+ 17½	+ 7.1
United News	720	+ 47	+ 6.9
WMC	263½	+ 16¾	+ 6.7
Autologic	360	+ 21	+ 6.1
Flying Flw Uts	192½	+ 11	+ 6.0
Canary Wharf	378	+ 21½	+ 6.0
Prowting	142½	+ 7½	+ 5.5
Bowater Inc	3303¼	+171¾	+ 5.4

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Albemarale & Bd	45	– 11	– 19.6
Lorien	128½	– 29	– 18.4
Thomson Travel	130½	– 24	– 15.5
Elec Retail Sys	95	– 10	– 9.5
Synstar	132	– 12½	– 8.6
Infobank-Intl	119½	– 10	– 7.7
Anglo Am Plat	1146⅞	– 81¼	– 6.6

TEMPUS

United's new star buy

COULD the Internet do for United News & Media what it did for Dixons? Judging by yesterday reaction to United's £571 million acquisition of CMP, the US business publisher with strong Internet interests, the answer appears to be yes. Shares in the media group rocketed 47p to 720p yesterday. They now trade 50 per cent higher than in January.

United has paid a lot of money for CMP (about 1.9 times sales), but the acquired company has been valued according to the revenues generated by its print titles, such as *InformationWeek*, rather than according to the on-line news titles. In comparison with some of the more excited prices being paid for cyberspace exposure, United appears to have got a bargain. Then again, the Internet is only a small part of the CMP operation, which perhaps explains the terrestrial purchase price.

United plans to merge the Internet activities of its Miller Freeman publishing business with those of CMP. The newly formed Internet group will then issue "tracker stock" on the US Nasdaq stock market in the US. This will give United what it calls a "web currency" the company can use to buy other Internet companies.

Meanwhile, United will cut costs at CMP, formerly a family run business, in the hope of raising profit margins from 6 per cent to nearer the 20 per cent currently enjoyed by Miller Freeman. Elsewhere in the empire fears of an advertising recession are receding, and it is becoming increasingly likely that it will buy more of the burgeoning Channel 5.

With the CMP deal it is time to reassess United, and the outlook is rosier than previously thought. Accumulate.

Allied Domecq

TEMPUS is aware that it may have misjudged Allied Domecq in recent months, too. Tempus has been moderately supportive while it is becoming increasingly apparent that the company faces a tougher future than was appreciated.

Yesterday's interim numbers confirm that Allied is lagging behind its peers, notably Diageo, Bass and Whitbread. The spirits side held its own but Mexican operations spoilt what was otherwise a decent performance. On the pubs side, pressure remains. Steps are being taken to rectify things, especially in regard of its Firkin pub chain, but it looks as if it will be some time before Allied can give clear evidence that it has genuinely turned the corner.

The company has its problems, but the difficulties are reflected in the share price. At 478½p, down 6 per cent yesterday, the stock rates on an earnings multiple of about 13.

Investors need to be careful about assessing the share value in relation to the dividend yield. Yesterday the interim was lifted to 15p from 9.73p, but it cannot be assumed that this points to a big increase in the annual payout. The jump comes now so that Allied can make the most of changes to the tax regime, while it still can. Indeed the underlying payment pattern is unlikley to change. In short, the shares yield 7 per cent gross of tax.

By both measures the shares look cheap, but are probably fairly valued at this time. Long-term promise remains, however, so despite the doubts, hold.

IN NEED OF A SHARPENER
FTSE all-share index (rebased)
Allied Domecq share price
Source: Datastream
850p, 800, 750, 700, 650, 600, 550, 500, 450, 400
1996 1997 1998 1999

Chiroscience

DESPITE the distractions and background noise, Chiroscience cannot escape the key issues. It needs to demonstrate that its Chirocaine anaesthetic is safer than the market leader, has sufficient strength to attract a strong marketing partner and can justify a premium price.

The chief executive, John Padfield, is sticking to his plan to launch Chirocaine in the US by the end of the year. This is bold given the delicate judgments to be made. Chirocaine is already approved in Sweden, and appears to have a clear edge over AstraZeneca's Marcaine for use in general surgery, in post-operative pain and with children. But it is worrying to learn that this differentiation was not enough for Chiroscience's first choice marketing partner, which wanted to press for a wider safety claim.

Some suggest Chirocaine could achieve sales of $250 million a year, though Astra's lack of progress with its premium product suggests this may be optimistic. Credit Suisse First Boston forecasts sales of just $80 million.

Still, with £60 million of cash and with ChiroTech making profits of £12.5 million, the 215p share price is giving Chiroscience little credit for the anaesthetic's potential. The shares will remain numb until a new marketing partner is found, but they are worth holding.

BAT

IS THE tobacco sector poised to end its sharp fall from share market grace with an equally sudden recovery? Last week the answer was undoubtedly no. But yesterday's results from British American Tobacco caused many to review matters.

BAT has joined the growing list of British companies that have detected the early signs of a turnaround in developing economies, particularly Asia. Any recovery is almost certain to be gradual but remember that these markets account for about half of BAT's profit, and the company is still well-leveraged to a turnaround.

Sentiment surrounding the sector is also set to swing on the growing belief that the litigation threats facing the industry are not as horrendous as previously thought. Twas ever thus, maybe, but BAT says it is confident of winning most cases against individuals, and those it loses are unlikely to have a significant impact on profit. Increasing numbers of observers believe the threat posed by class actions is also overstated.

Investors can start to relish the thought of the company's planned merger with Rothmans, which is expected to deliver substantial savings over the next three years. The stock is trading at under ten times 2000 earnings, so buy.

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COMMODITIES

LIFFE — COCOA

May	677-675	Jul	817-815
Jul	704-703	Sep	838 SLR
Sep	726-725	Dec	unq
Dec	755-753	Mar	884 SLR
Mar	777-775		
May	801-798	Volume:	4837

ROBUSTA COFFEE

May	1404-1403	Jan	unq
Jul	1420-1418	Mar	1443-1437
Sep	1435-1430	May	unq
Nov	unq	Volume:	11741

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	179.3-78.3
Spot 177.0		May	184.0-83.0
Aug	168.0-67.0	Aug	189.0-86.1
Oct	170.3-69.3	Oct	194.0-89.1
Dec	172.0-71.0	Volume:	2342

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 28

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	65.34	106.81	91.78
(+/-)	+0.55*	+5.75	+0.13
Eng/Wales	65.34	109.13	90.09
(+/-)	+0.55	+5.30	-0.19
%	+3.0	+23.0	-15.0
Scotland	unq	100.58	100.97
(+/-)		+5.65	+0.61
%		+1.0	-1.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm) — CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	16.60	+0.25
Brent 15 day (Jun)	16.45	+0.15
Brent 15 day (Jul)	16.20	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	18.55	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	18.15	+0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT) — Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	169 (n/c)	172 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	132 (-1)	133 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	73 (+1)	75 (+1)
Naphtha	149 (+11)	152 (+12)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd) — GAS OIL

May	131.25-31.75	Aug	137.00-37.25
Jun	133.50-33.75	Sep	138.50-38.75
Jul	135.25-35.50	Vol:	21071

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	16.37-16.39	Sep	15.75 BID
Jul	16.08 BID	Oct	15.64 BID
Aug	15.92 BID	Vol:	43483

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	78.35	May	75.50
Jul	79.20	Sep	73.50
Sep	75.45	Nov	75.25
Nov	77.45	Jan	77.25
Jan	79.00	Mar	79.25
Volume:	364	Volume:	0

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
May	150.0	150.0
Jun	unq	170.0
Nov		75.0
	Volume:	14

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Jun 42.25-42.75

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 99	1024	1023	1024
May 99	1090	1070	1085
Jun 99	990	990	990
Jul 99	930	930	930

Vol: 203 lots. Open interest: 2691. Index 1057 +28.0

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1553.0-1664.0	1583.0-1584.0	1411175
Lead ($/tonne)	535.00-535.50	541.50-542.00	243575
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1070.5-1071.5	1090.0-1091.0	1181150
Tin ($/tonne)	5595.0-5605.0	5590.0-5595.0	65560
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1320.0-1320.5	1343.0-1343.5	1454325
Nickel ($/tonne)	5409.0-5410.0	5475.0-5480.0	177246

LIFFE OPTIONS

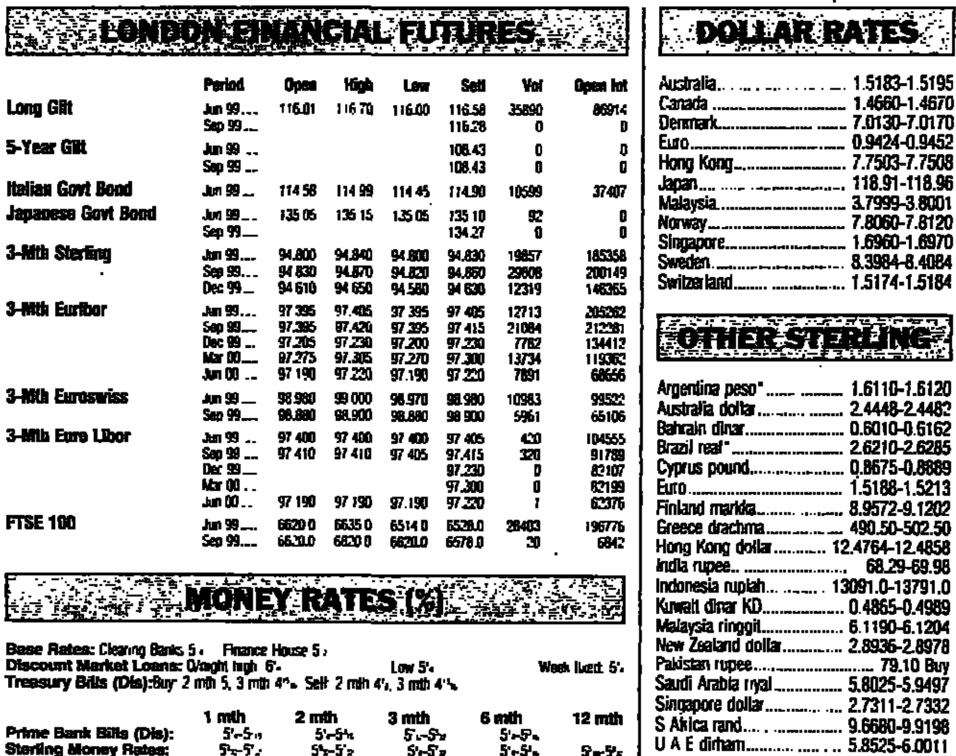
[illegible]

April 29 Total: 41311 Calls: 17446 Puts: 23865

FTSE INDEX (*6497.6)

[illegible]

April 29 Total: 1201 Calls: 446 Puts: 755
*Underlying security price



LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 99	116.01	116.70	116.00	116.58	35890	86914
	Sep 99				116.28	0	0
5-Year Gilt	Jun 99				108.43	0	0
	Sep 99				108.43	0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Jun 99	114.58	114.99	114.45	114.90	10599	37407
Japanese Govt Bond	Jun 99	135.05	135.15	135.05	135.10	92	0
	Sep 99				134.27	0	0
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 99	94.800	94.840	94.800	94.830	19857	185358
	Sep 99	94.830	94.870	94.820	94.860	29608	200149
	Dec 99	94.610	94.650	94.580	94.630	12319	146365
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 99	97.395	97.405	97.395	97.405	12713	205262
	Sep 99	97.395	97.420	97.395	97.415	21084	212381
	Dec 99	97.205	97.230	97.200	97.230	7782	134412
	Mar 00	97.275	97.305	97.270	97.300	13734	119362
	Jun 00	97.190	97.220	97.190	97.220	7891	68656
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 99	98.980	99.000	98.970	98.980	10983	99522
	Sep 99	98.880	98.900	98.880	98.900	5961	65106
3-Mth Euro Libor	Jun 99	97.400	97.400	97.400	97.405	420	104555
	Sep 99	97.410	97.410	97.405	97.415	320	91789
	Dec 99				97.230	0	82107
	Mar 00				97.300	0	82199
	Jun 00	97.190	97.190	97.190	97.220	1	62376
FTSE 100	Jun 99	6620.0	6635.0	6514.0	6528.0	28403	196776
	Sep 99	6630.0	6620.0	6620.0	6578.0	20	6842

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5¼ Finance House 5½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high 6¼ Low 5¼ Week fixed: 5¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5, 3 mth 4⅞. Sell: 2 mth 4⅞, 3 mth 4⅞

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅛-5	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5⅜-5⅛
Interbank:	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5⅜-5⅛

Overnight: open 5¼, close 5½

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	5⅛	n/a	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Sterling CDs:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛
Dollar CDs:	4.84	n/a	4.89	4.97	5.21
Building Society CDs:	5⅛-5¼	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5¼

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	4⅞-4⅞	5-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-5⅛	5-4
Sterling:	5⅜-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-4¾
Euro:	2⅞-2¾	2⅞-2¾	2⅞-2⅞	2⅞-2⅞	2¾ds-2⅞pr
Yen:	[illegible]	1⅛-⅞	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par
Canada:	4⅞-4¾	4⅞-4¾	4⅞-4⅞	4⅞-4¾	5⅛-4¾

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $282.75-283.05 **Close:** $283.10-283.60 **High:** $283.50-284.00
Low: $282.75-283.05 **AM:** $283.70 **PM:** $283.00
Krugerrand: $284.00-286.00 (£176.00-178.00)
Platinum: $346.00 (£214.75) **Silver:** $5.345 (£3.305) **Palladium:** $332.00 (£206.00)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 29	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	11.271-11.323	11.300-11.313	¼-⅛pr	⅝-½pr
Euro	1.5204-1.5224	1.5207-1.5221	0.14-0.16ds	0.43-0.46ds
Montreal	2.3608-2.3791	2.3632-2.3661	0.15-0.08pr	0.35-0.22pr
New York	1.6100-1.6148	1.6109-1.6118	0.062-0.042pr	0.133-0.102pr
Oslo	12.561-12.601	12.575-12.592	⅛-¼ds	⅜-½ds
Stockholm	13.512-13.572	13.528-13.552	¼-⅛pr	⅞-¾pr
Tokyo	191.46-192.07	191.82-192.07	⅞-¾pr	2½-2⅜pr
Zurich	2.4388-2.4495	2.4460-2.4490	⅞-¾pr	2⅝-2½pr

Source: Extel. Premium = pr Discount = ds

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5183-1.5195
Canada	1.4660-1.4670
Denmark	7.0130-7.0170
Euro	0.9424-0.9452
Hong Kong	7.7503-7.7508
Japan	118.91-118.96
Malaysia	3.7999-3.8001
Norway	7.8060-7.8120
Singapore	1.6960-1.6970
Sweden	8.3984-8.4084
Switzerland	1.5174-1.5184

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6110-1.6120
Australia dollar	2.4448-2.4482
Bahrain dinar	0.6010-0.6162
Brazil real*	2.6210-2.6285
Cyprus pound	0.8675-0.8889
Euro	1.5188-1.5213
Finland markka	8.9572-9.1202
Greece drachma	490.50-502.50
Hong Kong dollar	12.4764-12.4858
India rupee	68.29-69.98
Indonesia rupiah	13091.0-13791.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4865-0.4989
Malaysia ringgit	6.1190-6.1204
New Zealand dollar	2.8936-2.8978
Pakistan rupee	79.10 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8025-5.9497
Singapore dollar	2.7311-2.7332
S Africa rand	9.6680-9.9198
U A E dirham	5.8525-6.0011

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	857	Kingfisher	10,759
ASDA Gp	14,352	Ladbroke	6,546
Abbey Ntl	3,451	Land Secs	1,300
Allnce & Leic	1,750	Legal & Gn	16,972
Allied Dom	5,594	Lloyds TSB	6,063
Allied Zrch	3,319	Marks Spr	9,820
Amvescap	3,487	Misys	1,188
AB Foods	1,202	Nat Grid	3,384
AstraZeneca	8,943	Nat Power	5,338
Bk of Scot	1,512	NatWst Bk	4,747
BAA	1,423	Norwich Un	3,398
Barclays	4,073	Orange	2,216
Bass	1,654	P & O	5,455
BG	8,582	Pearson	2,582
Billiton	14,489	PowerGen	2,634
BOC	2,303	Prudential	10,604
Boots	1,854	Railtrack	1,232
BP Amoco	24,913	Reckitt Col	2,811
BAe	7,149	Reed Intl	2,316
BA	12,078	Rentokil	5,416
Brt Am Tob	11,962	Reuters	1,889
Brit Energy	1,717	Rio Tinto	5,808
BSkyB	2,932	Rolls Royce	6,567
BT	10,671	Ryl & Sun	4,281
CGU	2,036	Ryl Bk Sct	1,658
COLT Telecom	988	SA Breweries	379
Cable Wire	3,129	Sainsbury	7,242
Cadbury	3,698	Schroders	438
Carlton Cms	3,760	Scot & New	5,724
Centrica	11,580	Scot Sthn Engy	3,790
Compass Gp	4,889	Scot Power	3,629
Daily Mail A	121	Securicor	328
Diageo	7,460	Sema Gp	835
Dixons Grp	4,343	Svrn Trent	1,037
EMAP	490	Shell Trans	31,589
EMI	1,384	Smiths Ind	803
Energis	476	SmKl Bch	16,121
Gen Elec	7,447	Stagecoach	3,181
GKN	2,459	Std Chartd	3,424
Glaxo Well	8,014	Sun Life	1,215
Granada	1,641	TeleWest	2,421
GUS	2,074	Tesco	53,103
GRE	533	Thames W	1,762
Hanson	3,817	Unilever	12,526
ICI	1,698	Utd News	13,387
Imperial Tob	1,489	Utd Utilities	1,113
HSBC	3,244	Vodafone	8,965
Halifax	5,467	WPP	3,164
Hays	2,174	Whitbread	953
Invensys	6,740	Woolwich	4,373

WALL STREET

Apr 29 midday / Apr 28 close

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THE GOLDMAN SACHS ACCOUNT

Caught up in Maxwell's web of lies

Eric Sheinberg was the third most senior partner at Goldman Sachs when he started dealing with Robert Maxwell in 1986. The second extract from *Goldman Sachs, The Culture of Success* by Lisa Endlich, shows how, in the final months of the tycoon's life, Goldman became more and more embroiled in the tangled affairs of the client that bankers in London had warned against.

On October 22, 1991, Eric Sheinberg met Robert Maxwell for the last time. Goldman Sachs was fed up. Maxwell's loan payments to the firm were months overdue, and the firm began to make threats. If Goldman Sachs was not paid immediately it would begin to sell Maxwell's collateral in the market to realise the value of the loans. After months of begging for more time, making excuses and proffering lies, Maxwell's response was succinct: "If you do that, you'll kill me."

When the media tycoon fell off his boat on November 5, 1991, his empire went over the side of a cliff, dragging with it the reputation of the companies, among them Goldman Sachs, that had worked with Maxwell.

When Goldman Sachs took on Maxwell it failed to follow the first rule of Wall Street: know your client. Maxwell's professional reputation was far from unblemished and much about his empire was hidden from view. First in 1954 and again in 1971, Maxwell was censured by the British financial authorities.

While Goldman Sachs was aware of Maxwell's sullied name, it believed from the outset that it could safely do business with him in an arm's-length manner, always keeping at a safe distance.

Goldman Sachs's relationship with Maxwell began when the firm rented space in an office building owned by the publisher in Holborn, Central London. Goldman Sachs undertook its first piece of business with Maxwell in 1986 when Eric Sheinberg bid on a £200 million portfolio of shares Maxwell was offering. Sheinberg had never heard of Maxwell and the deal was a minor success, but the business was welcomed as the firm was trying to establish itself in the London market.

> 'By April 1991 Maxwell was desperate for cash'

Sheinberg, a trim man with grey hair and a Brooklyn accent, loved Goldman Sachs. He had come to the firm as a college student in 1956 with Peter Sachs, and the two began their careers, like so many others of their era, as outdoor runners, delivering securities between banking houses.

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By 1991, Sheinberg had been with Goldman Sachs for 30 years, 20 of them as a partner, and was also the third-most senior partner in the firm ...

IN THE late 1980s, Sheinberg had undertaken a number of block trades for Robert Maxwell, and the firm had acted as underwriter on a few small flotations by Maxwell-owned companies, including the Berlitz language schools and the Overseas Airline Guide (OAG). In 1989 the partners of the Goldman Sachs London office met in Maxwell House to discuss the burgeoning relationship. They argued strenuously that Maxwell was not someone with whom the firm should develop a close relationship. They acquainted the firm with the DTI investigation and its censure. They felt the official reprimand had substance, and that the management committee should take this warning very seriously.

Maxwell's closest relationship at Goldman Sachs was with Sheinberg, who at the time believed that there was no reason to be overly concerned about Maxwell's reputation. "I took it on faith that Robert Maxwell was an honest person," Sheinberg said later.

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Throughout late 1990 and most of 1991, Goldman became involved in a succession of transactions with Robert Maxwell. These included deals that effectively allowed Maxwell to buy shares in Maxwell Communication Corporation (MCC) at a time when he was not allowed to deal ...

GOLDMAN Sachs's management committee was reconfigured on December 1, 1990, and at its very first meeting the newly assembled body took a hard look at many of the firm's businesses and exposures. Sheinberg received a phone call. The firm was still holding OAG shares from the flotation a year earlier, the foreign exchange department had open contracts with Maxwell for future settlement and Sheinberg was holding MCC shares. All told, the firm's exposure to Maxwell was estimated by Sheinberg at between \$120 million and \$160 million. The OAG shares could not be sold; if they could have been, the firm would not still be holding them. On his open foreign exchange positions Maxwell was looking at potential losses of \$10 million, and nobody wanted to force him to realise these. Sheinberg's exposure would be the easiest to shrink, and the message from above was clear: cut it back.

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However, Sheinberg did not heed this advice and continued trading with Maxwell. Goldman became involved in a battle to maintain MCC's share price against pressure from large US institutions trying to drive the shares down. In the first seven months of 1991, 72 per cent of all MCC shares traded passed through Goldman ...

THE British authorities later investigated Goldman Sachs for an alleged illegal share support scheme. They cleared Goldman Sachs of the charge of helping Maxwell to buoy the price of MCC by disguising his purchases. Their conclusion was that Sheinberg did, in fact, buy independently rather than at Maxwell's behest, only later offering the shares to Maxwell, and that there was "not evidence to support an argument that Goldman Sachs was illegally supporting the MCC share price". Goldman Sachs was exonerated of any illicit activity with Maxwell and his companies.



Robert Maxwell on his yacht the *Lady Ghislaine*. When Goldman Sachs took him on, it failed to follow the first rule of Wall Street: know your client

RICK MAIMAN/SYGMA

By early 1991 Maxwell held 68 per cent of the shares in MCC, up from 52 per cent only nine months earlier. Legally, he was barred from holding more than 70 per cent of the company. Once Maxwell hit his limit he directed Sheinberg to other buyers who, he assured Goldman Sachs, were unrelated to Maxwell. Sheinberg assumed they were simply investors "friendly to management".

The procedure Maxwell and Sheinberg followed was usually the same. Once Sheinberg let Maxwell know he had shares to sell, Maxwell would often send him to a Dr Werner Rechsteiner of Zurich, acting on behalf of trusts in Liechtenstein, where it also happens that the Maxwell family fortune was said to reside. Rechsteiner never explained the purpose of his purchases of MCC shares, and Sheinberg did not feel that he needed to ask.

On March 27, 1991, Goldman Sachs made a loan to Maxwell of £25 million secured by 33 million shares of MCC worth about \$80 million. The one-week loan was at terms favourable to Goldman Sachs so was never called but instead rolled over every week. The MCC collateral, as the firm would have known, was difficult to value. As the largest market-maker in MCC shares, Goldman Sachs itself was the major price discovery mechanism. If there were ever a problem it would be hard to say exactly what the collateral was worth. In making the loan, the firm was confident either in Maxwell's ability to repay his obligation easily or in its own ability to dispose of the collateral without attracting widespread attention. Either way, Goldman Sachs was mistaken.

By April, Maxwell was desperate for cash, and he was going to have to steal to get it. The publisher telephoned Sheinberg with an unusual request, he wanted Goldman Sachs to stand between two buyers and two sellers on some shares of MCC. It would be a simple agency transaction. Maxwell would bring Goldman Sachs both sides, and the firm would earn a small commission of £110,000. Sheinberg did not ask Maxwell why he needed Goldman Sachs for the trade. "I didn't see any reason to ask him," he told the SEC. "We are brokers. Our business is shares between buyers and sellers." This is a somewhat unfair characterisation. Goldman Sachs's business is to find buyers and sellers; they are rarely matched up in advance. It was the first time Maxwell used Goldman Sachs to steal money, but it was months before the firm uncovered the theft.

> 'Maxwell had failed to repay a loan that had come due'

Goldman Sachs bought 25 million shares of MCC from two Maxwell pension funds on April 26, 1991, at a total cost of £54.9 million. When the trade settled a month later, the proceeds of these sales were repaid not to the pension funds but, as Kevin Maxwell had directed, to BIT, Maxwell's privately owned company.

Maxwell had provided the names of two Liechtenstein trusts, Servex and Yakosa, that would purchase the 25 million shares from Goldman Sachs on the same day they bought them from the pension funds. The trusts were, in fact, indirectly controlled by Maxwell. The payment for the trusts' shares came from BIT — the same entity Goldman Sachs had paid for the shares only hours earlier. In a memo to his father, Kevin Maxwell described this arrangement as "self-financing". The money simply moved back and forth from Goldman Sachs to BIT, and then back to Goldman Sachs again, all in the same day without any economic function. Meanwhile, Maxwell had shifted 25 million shares of MCC from his employees' pension funds to his personal companies. These shares could now be used as additional collateral for borrowings for his increasingly illiquid empire.

Correspondence between Goldman Sachs's back office and Kevin Maxwell indicates that payment for the shares on behalf of the trusts would be made by the Maxwell-owned BIT. If someone outside the back office had looked at this document they might have raised questions about why Maxwell's private company was funding share purchases for two trusts with which he allegedly had no connection.

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Goldman continued to do business with Maxwell over the next few months, despite him failing to deliver £37 million worth of shares it had sold for him and defaulting on a £29 million foreign exchange transaction ...

DURING the first week in August, Robert Katz was vacationing with his family in South Carolina. The dark-haired, dark-eyed Katz is a former partner of the prestigious law firm Sullivan and Cromwell, Goldman Sachs's lawyers for most of the 20th century. Although not yet a member of the management committee, as the firm's general counsel and a partner since June 1988, he regularly sat in on the committee's meetings, providing guidance on many complex legal matters. He planned to leave his family Sunday night and fly to New York for what he thought would be the management committee's routine Monday morning meeting. But before making his way to the airport, he received a phone call from one of his assistants informing him that Robert Maxwell had failed to repay a margin loan that had come due.

When the management committee sat down for its meeting, they asked investment banking partner Ken Brody to assume day-to-day responsibility for the developing Maxwell situation. He was assisted by the co-head of equities, Roy Zuckerberg, Katz, and Sheinberg. But Sheinberg was being edged out of the situation. His partners felt that he had not taken a tough enough line. They hoped that Sheinberg would cease communications with Maxwell. Now that real problems had developed, Brody and Katz took over.

Goldman Sachs still hoped to work out a repayment schedule that Maxwell could meet. In August the firm was holding £106 million worth of MCC and MGN shares as collateral, and no one was interested in selling it and starting a downward spiral in prices.

At the very highest levels, Goldman Sachs now knew that Maxwell was mired in serious financial trouble and had lied to the firm. On August 27, Katz wrote to Rechsteiner and received written confirmation of the verbal assurances he had given Sheinberg that the trusts Rechsteiner was buying for were unrelated to Maxwell. The firm's investment banking division continued dealing with Maxwell in an effort to sell some of his remaining assets. But Goldman Sachs undertook no further trades with Maxwell or his associates.

By early October the loans had still not been repaid, and on October 10, Brody, Katz, and Bob Hurst (a co-head of investment banking) went to see Maxwell at the Helmsley Palace hotel in New York. Maxwell used his suite at the hotel as headquarters and residence. The three partners and the extremely overweight Maxwell rode upstairs in a tiny elevator designed for two normal-sized adults. After a few moments of pleasantries, Brody reviewed the history of the unpaid loans. Maxwell offered a range of pie-in-the-sky solutions, all of which would take time to materialise, but the men from Goldman Sachs were tired of giving Maxwell time. The deadline for repayment was the following day, and that, they reminded him, remained unchanged.

> 'Goldman knew that Maxwell was mired in financial trouble'

When there was no repayment on the 11th, they extended the firm's deadline once again until Monday, October 21, and Katz and Brody were back on collection duty. On the 22nd Maxwell called and asked to meet Brody and Katz. The pair refused to see him. Goldman Sachs was no longer interested in meetings, only in payment. There was nothing to discuss.

Later the same morning, Katz received word from the ground-floor security guard that Maxwell was seeking to gain entry to 85 Broad Street (The New York headquarters of Goldman Sachs).

Maxwell rode up to the 12th floor where the firm had its legal department. There, in a conference room, he and his attorney met with Katz, Brody, and Sheinberg. Maxwell asked the bankers to remind him once again how much money he still owed. He let them know that while this may have been important to them, to him it was trivial, and the details were a bit fuzzy. Maxwell made a call to Chase Manhattan on his cellular phone and wire-transferred an amount to pay off a small debt he owed the firm. Five minutes later the funds were confirmed to be in a Goldman Sachs account, and Maxwell's ploy had proved successful.

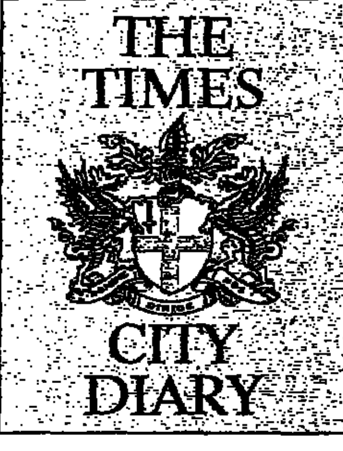
Now Maxwell again offered the story that he would be more liquid by year end and would be able to repay the loans in full. In response, Brody offered the publisher a story of his own. "There is a famous story about the Sultan and the condemned man," he began. Everyone perked up, surprised at the conversation's turn and curious to hear what Brody would say. "The man is condemned to be executed but he says to the Sultan: 'If you do not execute me for a year I will teach your dog to talk.'" Katz recalled. "The point of the story that Mr Maxwell and Mr Brody seemed to click on together quite readily was ... after all, in the course of the year the man might die anyway, the dog might die anyway, the Sultan might die anyway, or God knows, the dog might learn to talk. In any event, the year would have been bought. I think this was Mr Brody's way of suggesting that we had had a lot of talk about things that would happen if we granted more time, and it was time to talk about payment." Maxwell pleaded with his bankers not to liquidate the collateral: "If you do that, you'll kill me."

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Just over two weeks later, Maxwell disappeared off his yacht near the Canary Islands. His body was found the next day ...

□ *Goldman Sachs: The Culture of Success* is published by Little Brown on May 6, price £20.

In a jam



STEVE NORRIS, director-general of the Road Haulage Association, devoted a lecture at the Institute of Logistics this week to a strong plea for road pricing in central London. This is the official RHA policy — the truckers can afford to pass on the suggested £5 a trip levy to their customers, but you and I can't.

But this is also the Steve Norris who may or may not run for Mayor of London — "I've made no decision yet," he tells me. Charging us all to use our cars would surely be death at the polling booths? He claims not, if the cash goes on improving the roads. "I would be in a position to offer money to solve London's traffic problems." I have my doubts.

Steve Norris's proposals may spark road rage from Londoners

NORRIS also told the story of how he turned up to a cinema showing an obscure French film, to be greeted with a round of applause. Recognition for years of public service? Then the manager told him he had insisted on an audience of at least ten or the film wouldn't be shown. When Norris and his wife arrived there were only eight in the auditorium.

I would never suggest that so eminent a politican would embroider a story. But again, I have my doubts.

20-20 hindsight

THE extract in *The Times* today from the history of Goldman Sachs might never have appeared if the bank had listened to two of its most senior corporate financiers.

In the mid-1980s Goldman was renting offices at Maxwell House. The head of the London operation, Bob Conway, asked Peter Spira if he would take on some work for Maxwell. Spira, with more than 20 years experience in the City, said: "Over my dead body." Conway asked another partner, Bob Hamburger, who consulted with Spira and also refused.

Unfortunately Spira and Hamburger left in 1987. The rest is history.

SIGN of the times: the first profit warnings arrived yesterday blaming the Nato bombing in Kosovo, from Lufthansa, the German airline, and Sabena, of Belgium. Expect British retailers and leisure companies to follow in due course. Meanwhile, some clever corporate financier is probably wondering about the death of Jill Dando.

Ugly curves?

SIR NORMAN FOSTER and the City planners are heading for a row over a "vertical curve". This is apparently the latest hot trend in architecture: a concave front that curves back halfway up the building.

It sounds odd, I know, and the Corporation of London believes that there should not be too many of them. Two designs by Foster were waved through planning this week, but a third to be considered this summer could prove more of a problem.

This is because the site, near Mansion House, is alongside some more orthodox buildings and would stick out rather. Some among the planners are gearing themselves up for a fight.

Sir Norman's office and Minerva, the developer, are refusing to comment on the potential for a row. But it would not be the architect's first brush with controversy in the City. His Millennium Tower, set to be the highest building in Europe, did not go ahead after objections from the traditionalists.

AN EMBARRASSING slip for Lord Hollick, presenting on the United News & Media deal. He was running through the slide show and came to the page marked "The Profit Opportunity". Slide otherwise blank. Everyone looked down at their hard copies. Yup, blank. Fair enough for an Internet deal, surely? But a gofer was dispatched for the proper figures.

Pub talk

I HEAR that Allied Domecq has finally tired of the loutish puns with which it promotes its main managed pub chain, Firkin. In case you have missed these, they are various plays on "firkin this" and "firkin that" that have proved enormously amusing to drunken students and other riff-raff.

Now Tony Hales, Allied's chief executive, admits: "Some of the humour had become dated and irritating." As part of a revamp of Firkin pubs to make them more attractive to women, any "overtly laddish" humour will be dropped.

Now, that just leaves the people at French Connection ...

MARTIN WALLER

city.diary@the-times.co.uk



"Of course it's overweight, it's all the baggage labels"

BAT turns tide as improved outlook sees share price leap

By Paul Armstrong

INVESTORS in the hard-hit tobacco sector yesterday received some of their best news for months when British American Tobacco (BAT) forecast a second-half recovery and claimed that litigation threats had fallen away.

The improved outlook and a better than expected first-quarter results fuelled a 39p rise in BAT shares to 544p in a falling market. The stock had plunged from a recent high of 675p in January amid fears over US lawsuits against the industry and tough trading conditions.

BAT blamed economic troubles in some of its key overseas markets for a 10 per cent drop in operating profit to £341 million for the first three months of 1999. Revenue rose just 2 per cent to £4.2 billion. It said the uncertainty in developing economies had combined with price rises in the US to drive down cigarette volumes by 6 per cent.

A one-off gain in net interest and the absence of the demerger and restructuring costs of the previous year restricted the drop at the pre-tax profit level to 1 per cent at £309 million.

Martin Broughton, chairman, said improved trading in the second half was expected to lead to full-year results similar to those in 1998. Analysts said the profit result was slightly above market expectations and would lead to a small increase in full-year earnings forecasts.

Jonathan Fell, an analyst with Merrill Lynch, said: "Sentiment on this company has been about as low as it ever gets. People have been very worried about the emerging market exposure and the litigation concerns have probably been overdone."

Mr Broughton played down the risks posed to BAT by further US litigation, saying the company believed the industry would "generally continue" to win cases against individuals. He also questioned the prospects of any federal suit against the industry, such as that suggested by President Clinton.

"Any such suit would require a constitutionally suspect retrospective change to the law to have any chance of success," Mr Broughton said.

BAT has previously announced a special interim dividend of 4p a share for the March quarter. It will be paid on July 1.

BAT's profit result coincided with reports in the US that the company is developing a cigarette made from tobacco with lower levels of nitrosamines, generally considered among the most prevalent and deadly cancer-causing agents in tobacco smoke.

Tempus, page 34

Better spirits fail to help Domecq

By Dominic Walsh

A SHARP fall in half-year profits sent Allied Domecq's shares sliding yesterday despite evidence that it has started to tackle the problems behind January's disastrous profit warning.

In early trading, the share price sank 9 per cent — wiping almost £450 million from the company's stock market value — but the price rallied as it became evident that the dire trading in its managed pubs business, which includes the Firkin and Big Steak chains, had been arrested. The shares closed off 24p at 485½p.

The group saw a 9 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £292 million in the six months to February 28 from turnover 3 per cent lower at £1.83 billion. Earnings per share dipped 2 per cent to 20.4p. While underlying profits from its spirits and wine division rose 4 per cent, retailing fell 13 per cent.

Its leased pubs maintained last year's £25 million contribution despite 4 per cent fewer pubs, but managed pub profits were £10 million lower at £70 million because of an erosion in consumer confidence and higher costs.

Tony Hales, Allied's chief executive, said a recent revival in the economic outlook combined with a revamp of some of its concepts, notably the tired Firkin brand, was beginning to reap rewards. "Having restored the sales momentum we're now seeking to restore margins through overhead cost reductions," he said. Mr Hales said that about 20 per cent of its 2,000 managed pubs were the subject of a strategic review.

Its spirits division benefited from the continued allocation of investment to its biggest brands with Ballantine's whisky, Kahlua, Beefeater gin and Sauza tequila lifting volumes 5 per cent.

Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman, remained tight-lipped on Allied's search for a spirits partner to counter the threat posed by Diageo. He also said that it would consider such a move only if it was "pragamatic" to do so.

Tempus, page 34
City Diary, page 35

Chiroscience confident of US launch despite delay

By Paul Durman

CHIROSCIENCE remains confident of launching its new local anaesthetic in the US before the end of the year even though the European launch has been delayed.

Chirocaine, claimed to be safer than the market-leader sold by Astra of Sweden, has already been approved in Europe. However, Chiroscience is still seeking a marketing partner to replace Zeneca, which had to drop Chirocaine because of the competition concerns raised by the recent merger that formed AstraZeneca.

John Padfield, chief executive, expects to secure a partner as soon as Chiroscience agrees the label claims for its anaesthetic with the US Food and Drug Administration. For ethical reasons, Chirocaine's better safety has been shown only in pigs and sheep, but Chiroscience still hopes to charge a premium price.

He said the year-end launch target "will be tight but all product launches are tight". In Europe, the firm hopes to launch Chirocaine early next year. Dr Padfield said minor delays were insignificant in the context of a drug with 15 years of patent protection.

The group's sales grew by 57 per cent last year to £41.2 million because of the continuing explosive growth of ChiroTech, which supplies Glaxo Wellcome with a key ingredient of Ziagen, a recently launched Aids drug. ChiroTech's profits jumped by 76 per cent to £12.5 million, helping to reduce the group's operating loss by a third to £17.5 million.

Tempus, page 34

FINDLAY KEMBER

John Padfield and Christine Soden, Chiroscience finance director, saw sales top £40 million

German chemical firms in doldrums

By Carl Mortished
International Business Editor

WEAK demand and falling prices have savaged the first-quarter performance at BASF and Hoechst, the German chemical giants. Both reported falling sales and sliding profits and gave warning of a bleak outlook.

BASF said that earnings in the first half of 1999 would be lower than a year ago as it announced a 22 per cent slump in first-quarter net income to €323 million (£210 million).

The industrial chemicals group suffered sales declines in every division except health and nutrition, leaving revenues down 8 per cent on the previous year's first quarter. The company predicted only a weak pick-up later in the year.

Industrial chemicals was also the Achilles' heel of Hoechst, which plans to merge with Rhône-Poulenc by the end of the year to create a European life sciences group. Hoechst's pre-tax profit for the first quarter fell 57 per cent to €158 million, which the company blamed on weak European growth and uncertainty in the Far East and Latin America.

Hoechst's life sciences business showed a 53 per cent profit gain in the first quarter, which was attributed mainly to strong sales of new drugs, but the pharmaceutical profits surge was wiped out by a collapse in industrial chemicals.

The industrial businesses made just €27 million in the first quarter, an 81 per cent decline.

Hoechst said the slide was "due mainly to very difficult conditions in most industrial markets, which are characterised by overcapacity, firmer raw material costs and pressure on selling prices".

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

US investors fuel venture capital rise

AMERICAN pension funds fuelled a 23 per cent rise in venture capital investment in the UK last year, the British Venture Capital Association (BVCA) has reported. Venture groups put £3.8 billion into 1,122 UK companies, four times the rate at the start of the decade. A further £1.1 billion was invested in 210 continental companies.

The combined £4.9 billion investment via UK venture capital groups accounts for almost half Europe's total. However, most of the money ultimately comes from America, where unquoted investments are more accepted in institutional portfolios. Overseas investors put up almost three quarters of the £5.6 billion of new funds committed last year. However, half of this may finance continental management buyouts. Clive Sherling, BVCA chairman, said that an increasing amount of UK venture capital investment is going to high-technology start-ups and companies needing cash for major expansion.

Euro Disney losses up

EURO DISNEY, the theme park operator, reported an increase in first-half losses, caused by an expected rise in charges after a financial restructuring and a partial resumption of royalties to Walt Disney. The company reported a net loss of €45.3 million (£29.5 million) for the six months to March 31 (€31.3 million loss). Royalties and fees totalled €11.8 million in the first half. For the full year, they are expected to be about €30.5 million. Disneyland Paris revenues rose 3 per cent to €374 million in the first half.

S&U profit declines

S&U, the home-collected credit company, saw a fall in pre-tax profits to £5.9 million from £6.8 million in the year to January 31. However, the total dividend rises to 20p (19p) a share, with a 15p final, in the light of a strong recovery in trading in the second half. S&U said pre-tax profits would have been higher than in the previous 12 months but for an additional provision of £800,000 against doubtful debts. Earnings fell to 33p (40.6p) a share. The shares rose 9p to 254p.

L&B chief to retire

JIM HEILIG is to retire as chief executive of Low & Bonar, the packaging company announced yesterday. A search for his successor is under way. Mr Heilig was appointed in 1995 after the departure of Jim Leng to Laporte. Since then Low & Bonar has enjoyed mixed fortunes in a sector undergoing vast restructuring in the face of difficult trading conditions. At yesterday's annual meeting shareholders were told conditions remained difficult. The shares fell 4½p to 199p, against a 12-month high of 420p.

War hurts Lufthansa

LUFTHANSA, the German airline, suffered a 66 per cent fall in first-quarter net profits and has implied that flight restrictions related to Nato's air war in Yugoslavia bear some blame. The airline said profits plunged to DM111 million (£37.4 million), from DM324 million, citing "difficult operating conditions". Nato planes are refuelling at Frankfurt's international airport, the airline's hub, causing delays. Lufthansa expects 1999 profits of about DM2 billion, down from DM2.5 billion.

European Motor falls

THE new bi-annual car registration system and the strong pound have been blamed by European Motor Holdings, the BMW, Mercedes and Jaguar dealer, for a fall in new vehicle sales in the UK and a drop in pre-tax profits to £7.8 million, from £10.2 million, in the year to March 31. Turnover fell to £429.5 million (£470.4 million). Earnings per share were 7.7p (13.2p). The full-year dividend remains 6.1p. Richard Palmer, chief executive, said current-year trading is significantly up.

Lyonnais attracts ten

FRANCE'S Finance Ministry said that it has received ten bids for a stake in Crédit Lyonnais (CL), the state-owned bank that is to be privatised. Bids have come from Crédit Agricole, Crédit Commercial de France, Cie Financière de Paribas, Banques Populaires, AXA, Assurances Générales de France, LVMH, Commerzbank, Banca Intesa and Banco Bilbao Vizcaya. The ministry will, by the end of May, shortlist companies that will be CL's core investors, holding up to 33 per cent.

Placing will give Bell £62.7m tag

By Saeed Shah

BELL GROUP, an electronic security systems provider, yesterday said it is coming to the stock market by way of a share placing that will value the company at £62.7 million. The shares, which begin trading next month, have been priced at 120p.

The company, which installs intruder detection systems, CCTV and fire alarms, said that it expects to raise about £8.6 million, net of expenses, from the placing of 21.5 million shares.

Of the shares being placed by Hoare Govett, 8.3 million would be issued by the company and 13.17 million would be placed by existing shareholders, representing a total of 41.2 per cent of the issued share capital after flotation. The funds raised will be placed on deposit, pending use in expansion of the business, including further acquisitions.

Pat Curran, the chief executive, said: "Given the difficult market conditions for smaller company flotations recently, it is all the more pleasing to see the strong appetite for investment in Bell."

For the year ended December 31, 1998, Bell had operating profit, before goodwill amortisation, of £3.8 million, up from £3.0 million, on turnover of £34.1 million, up from £25.7 million. The company said that it anticipates that 1999 will be "another successful year".

EU backs Aerospatiale merger

THE European Union has approved a merger of Aerospatiale, the French state aerospace company, with the Matra subsidiary of the Lagardère defence group to create the world's fifth-biggest aerospace/defence group and Europe's second-biggest, with turnover of €12.2 billion (£7.93 billion).

The deal, engineered by France, is seen as a step towards welding Europe's defence and aerospace operators into a group to rival US giants.

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هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
ACM INVESTMENTS LTD				
0171 470 0100				
Shrt Dtd Gdt	132.90	140.40	- 0.20	
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.9495	0.9585	+ 0.01	
US Income	54.94	55.79	- 0.05	5.40
US Growth	190.10	101.95	- 0.20	
Sterling Bond	55.91	56.93	- 0.04	5.30
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 3888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	149.73	159.56	- 0.18	
-do- May to Jan 19	145.58	145.58		
UK Equity Safeguard	119.89	128.22	- 0.47	2.79
-do- May to Mar 19	116.0506	116.0506		
UK Eqy Safeguard	101.18	107.38	- 0.51	
Cash	959.60	964.40		4.50
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	459.43	488.45	- 3.05	1.05
-do- Small Cos	100.49	107.47	- 0.50	0.30
FTSE 250 Index	118.30	127.17	- 0.15	1.63
Geared UK Index	#26.312	#27.7761	- 0.32	4.00
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	87.96	90.31	- 0.12	5.14
Monthly Inc	45.19	48.34	- 0.10	7.42
International Funds				
American Gen	406.40	431.79	- 3.81	
American Smlr	185.38	190.01	- 1.88	
Jt US Index	#32.006	#33.803	- 0.11	4.50
European Gen	440.70	467.94	- 4.22	0.08
European Smlr	213.37	228.13	- 2.48	
Japan Gen	122.70	129.46	- 0.57	
Asia Pacific	76.13	81.43	- 0.39	1.38
Pacific Smlr	106.94	114.37	- 0.28	
Greater China	196.53	210.19	- 2.85	
Latin America	75.44	80.68	+ 1.83	
Intl Growth	209.18	223.23	- 1.12	
Balanced Eurasia	191.27	198.30		
Global Strategy	50.57	54.08	- 0.72	
AXA SUN LIFE FUND MGRS LTD				
Admin & Enq 0117 989 9080				
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trust				
Balanced Acc	89.02	95.35	0.40	1.32
Balanced Inc	80.79	85.41	- 0.38	1.32
Brit Friendly Acc	179.90	189.80		3.97
Brit Friendly Inc	105.40	112.80		3.97
Europe	584.90	622.30	- 0.30	0.36
General Acc	1071.00	1138.00	- 11.00	1.32

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	255.10	267.90	- 2.60	0.98
UK Growth	338.00	354.90	3.20	0.95
UK Income	218.90	229.90	+ 0.10	2.56
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Cap Gro Dist	347.40	368.20	- 3.90	0.97
-do- Income (Ret)	190.30	201.70	- 1.20	2.45
-do- Accum	662.40	702.10	- 4.30	2.45
Gilt & Fxd Int	47.65	50.87	+ 0.10	4.00
Growth Units	420.20	448.40	- 5.30	1.04
Bond	202.48	213.30	- 0.20	5.60
Intl Growth	294.39	312.00	- 1.40	0.10
North American	466.80	495.20	- 2.90	
Far East	214.60	228.50	- 1.10	0.78
UK Smaller Cos	317.30	338.30	- 2.60	1.00
European	141.30	150.00	- 0.60	0.14
Japanese Growth	35.84	37.98	+ 0.08	
High Income	331.60	354.30	2.20	2.48
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	400.20	423.70		
European Inc	155.00	164.40	- 0.80	0.38
Smaller Cos (4-1)	133.40	142.00	+ 0.70	1.72
Growth	813.00	866.80	- 9.80	0.97
Income & Growth #	667.40	710.00	- 7.50	3.48
-do- Accum #	1106.00	1176.60	- 4.10	3.48
Japan & Gen	65.56	69.29	+ 0.26	
Hallmark Cash	1835.00	1912.00	- 13.00	0.81
-do- Accum	2344.00	2442.00	16.00	0.81
Special Sits	187.40	199.40	- 1.90	1.88
High Yield	2190.00	2258.00	- 9.00	3.01
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	131.89	140.10	- 0.88	1.66
American Portfolio	215.47	228.12	- 0.47	0.37
European Portfolio	223.53	237.51	- 0.29	0.27
High Income	58.42	62.68	+ 0.02	5.90
Japanese Portfolio	58.36	62.15	+ 0.20	
Pacific Portfolio	127.73	136.97	- 1.73	1.74
UK Equity	134.56	143.74	- 1.52	2.02
UK Equity & Bd	77.21	81.86	- 0.21	3.77
UK Smlr Cos	57.97	62.00	+ 0.75	1.57

[illegible]

Profit-takers move in

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1999 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
615½	446	Allied Domecq	478½	- 31	6.4	13.0
365	279½	Bulmer (HP)	363	- 1	4.1	16.2
30	10½	Burn Stewart	18	- ¼	...	...
742	625	Diageo	700	- 10	2.7	17.4
730	525	Glenmorangie A	535		2.7	14.5
356	222½	Highland Dist	344		3.9	11.5
29½	24	Merrydown W	24½	...	...	...

BANKS

[illegible]

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

LEISURE & HOTELS

[illegible]

MEDIA

[illegible]

MINING

[illegible]

OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]

PHARMACEUTICALS

[illegible]

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

[illegible]

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

[illegible]

LONGS (over 15 years)

[illegible]

UNDATED

[illegible]

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%

[illegible]

PRINTING & PAPER

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

[illegible]

TRANSPORT

[illegible]

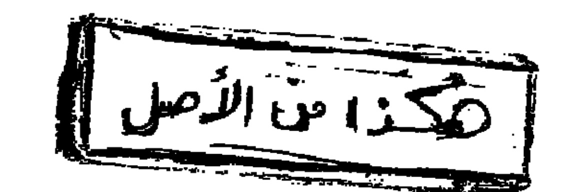
WATER

[illegible]

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

[illegible]







POP
Melky Sedeck: chips off the Fugees block?
PAGE 40

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE
Aphra Behn's Oroonoko goes on stage
PAGE 42



Come on, Mahler, make me a kid again

Once again — thanks to an extraordinary coincidence that I shall come to in about 800 words' time — I find myself thinking about Mahler. And very irritating it is too. Mahler, after all, is a teenagers' composer. His music is best savoured when you are 18, at which point it exactly fits your world-view: that life, love and death are heroic adventures, worthy to be celebrated in music of heaven-storming grandeur.

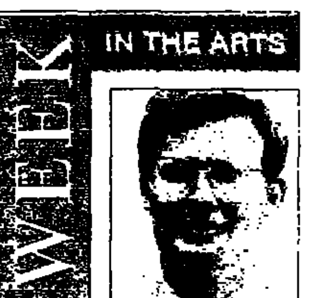
At that age a symphony such as the *Resurrection*, which sweeps you down to hell and then blazes out the promise of immortality, hits you between the eyes. The Adagietto of the Fifth — that shimmering love-song-without-words — leaves you in a trance. You don't walk out of the hall; you float.

Hear the same pieces when you are 37 or 47, and it is liable to be a case of emotion recollected in sterility. By then, most of us have found life to be neither heroic nor tragic: rather, it's paying the mortgage and muddling through. The roller-coaster ride hasn't happened. We can still thrill to Mahler's huge emotional odysseys, but the thrill is rooted in escapism or nostalgia.

And yet old habits die hard. I still check my diary each time I see a Mahler concert advertised. No other composer has that effect on me. Why? Well, one clue may lie in a fascinating book, *Charisma in Politics, Religion and the Media*, by David Aberbach. He studied the lives of people who, for good or evil, exercised charismatic power over mass populations. Ranging from Hitler to Marilyn Monroe, he argued that a traumatic failure or tragedy, often in childhood, leads such figures to seek compensatory control of the public domain. "I belong to the public and to the world," Monroe declared, "because I have never belonged to anyone else." Or as Diana, Princess of Wales, put it: "I want to be the princess of people's hearts."

Aberbach didn't study composers, but Mahler would surely have been his prime example. His symphonies are wrenched from the turmoil of his life — particularly his grisly childhood, scarred by the deaths of his siblings — and then laid bare in public. Nearly a century later, their hold on audiences remains extraordinary. In his hands we are all teenagers, it seems.

But Mahler's symphonies, especially the massive choral ones, are also grand celebrations of music as a truly communal art. Mahler was himself a great conductor, and the music he wrote for orchestral musicians is expertly conceived to stretch them to the technical limit. But the glory of these gigantic works is that their virtuoso demands operate in tandem with choral writing that demands nothing more than a good ear, a tuneful voice and prodigious lungs. To cap it all, Mahler also used children's voices brilliantly. So his symphonies really do span the gamut of music-making, from skilled pros to beginners. That is why every Mahler concert is an event.



WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

And the Eighth Symphony is the greatest event of them all. It's called the *Symphony of a Thousand* because at its 1910 premiere a thousand people (1,002 actually) took part. These days, most performances get by with about 600. But even in these straitened circumstances, Part One of the Eighth Symphony — that hurtling dash through the ancient Catholic hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* — is one of the most ear-splitting, mind-blowing half-hours in all music. (Unfortunately, it's then followed by Part Two — but nothing is perfect.)

Imagine my astonishment, then, to discover that next week London will enjoy not one but two unconnected performances of this gargantuan masterpiece. Much laborious prose has been churned out — not least by me — on the subject of London's decline as a world-class musical capital. But I cannot think of any other city on the globe that could possibly find the musicians, or the audience, to sustain two performances of the *Symphony of a Thousand*, 48 hours apart, by entirely different organisations.

What a contrast they will make, too. The Albert Hall show next Thursday is in what you might call the European Cup of Mahler Eights, with the Royal Philharmonic, three famous choral societies and some starry soloists. Two days later, the Festival Hall hosts the Mahler equivalent of the Nationwide League, including such intriguing ensembles as the Crouch End Festival Chorus. But I don't doubt for a moment that their commitment will be every bit the equal of the luminaries across the river.

Leonard Bernstein said Mahler was "the last great composer". That's a bit gloomy, but one knows what he meant. Mahler lived at the optimum time in history for personal traumas to be expressed on massive musical canvases. Shortly after he died the advent of cheap mass entertainment destroyed the economic basis for music-making on such a scale. And the rise of a foul generation of political dictators gave charisma and rhetoric a bad name. The power to inspire millions suddenly seemed, to sensitive composers at least, unhealthy and potentially evil.

Many retreated into writing complex little pieces for complex little audiences. By contrast, pop composers had no scruples about wooing millions with their music, but rarely developed the techniques to extend their art beyond the span of the four-minute song.

So in one sense Mahler really was the last of the greats. And 90 years on, the Eighth Symphony continues to enthrall and deafen us, just as it did the Edwardians. But can I take it twice in three days? You bet. When it comes to Mahler, as Mr Bryan Adams so memorably wrote, I'm 18 till I die.



ROY RILEY

Sheep may safely gaze: Henry Moore's massive sculptures can now be viewed in the gently undulating Hertfordshire landscape that he knew so well

Way ahead of the field

RECITAL

The Kathleen Ferrier Award
Wigmore Hall

Nobody with even half an ear to hear could have failed to spot the winner at this year's Kathleen Ferrier Award. Yes, she might have yelped a little while catching at speed the highest of high notes in Bellini's *Qui la voce*. And the palette of her programme might have been a little bland. But of the five finalists, Sally Matthews, at just 23, had many of the makings of the singer and artist for which this Award is on the lookout.

There is significant booty here: £10,000 and the offer of a London recital. Matthews, alone of the finalists, earned it by fusing superb vocal grooming with real performance skills. Her natural voice is a fragrant, flute-like soprano, ideally suited to her Bach *St Matthew Passion* aria; her stage presence is quietly assured, expressing a certain rapt quality rare in such a young singer, and certainly rare in the competition arena.

This was focused beguilingly in Samuel Barber's *Hermit Songs*, in Duparc's *Soupir*, and in Schumann's *Meine Rose*. And the voice could certainly move when it finally had to: the virtuoso Bellini aria flamed out with considerable bel canto skill, and just the sort of daring shown by too few of the finalists.

There comes a point in every competition when the chairman will, without fail, comment on the exceptionally high standard of the entrants. The prestige of the event is thus reaffirmed: truth is less well served. On many occasions the shortlist is laboriously drawn up, and the winner the best of a frankly mediocre lot.

This, I have to say, was the case this year. The second prize was awarded to Arlene Rolph, a civilised and well-nurtured mezzo-soprano, whose forthcoming year at the National Opera Studio will doubtless sharpen the focus of her Cherubino.

Richard Burkhard, a baritone audibly and visibly from the English choral-scholar tradition, won third prize. His Bach was sober and studied; his Schubert *Fischerweise* somewhat lacking in *Lebenslust*; his Verdi and Ravel cautiously and stiffly characterised. My choice would have been the far less safe but thrillingly generous artistry of soprano Donna Bateman. She might well end up nearer Ronnie Scott's than the Wigmore Hall; but in the exuberance of her Gounod, the miniaturism of her Wolf, and in the sheer enterprise of presenting an eloquent new work by fellow Guildhall student Quentin Thomas, she fused song and self in a compellingly communicative performance.

HILARY FINCH

Placid moorings

The home of Britain's greatest sculptor is now open to the public. Rachel Campbell-Johnston reports

Perry Green is one of those Home Counties hamlets that urban people find charmingly rural, and rural people find rather twee. Primroses cluster on mossy verges. A palomino pony noses over a hedge. And in the patchwork gardens of pretty brick cottages, spring blossoms froth and spread. It's hard to believe that a feud could have been fought here, that anything more acrimonious could ever have brewed than the tussock-top squabbles of boisterous lambs.

But Perry Green, in Hertfordshire, was once the home of this century's most celebrated sculptor, Henry Moore. And after his death in 1986 a bit of a barney broke out between his daughter and the trustees of the charitable foundation which Moore set up to preserve his artistic legacy. His daughter laid claim to several of his sculptures. Perry Green, she believed, offered too limited a setting for her father's works, while any further development of the site would risk turning it into a "Disneyland". The trust disagreed. The case went to court. The trust won.

This spring, as Perry Green opens its gates once more to the public, visitors will be able to inspect the changes the trust has made. Or at least, a limited number of visitors will be able to, for admission is strictly limited and arranged only by appointment. There have been murmurs of discontent about this. The new Sheep Field Barn gallery, housing a display of smaller works, was built with the help of National Lottery funds. Some feel that public access should, therefore, be unrestricted. But others maintain that the preservation of the peaceful atmosphere is essential to any enjoyment of Moore's sculptures as they lounge about on the lawns like Gaian gods.

"Oh, do look at the sheep!" trilled a lady visitor. The sheep waggled their tails oblivious to her delight. They looked like average ovines to me. But "oh aren't they *sweet*?" cried the lady, as if she had never encountered such animals before. I suppose, in a way, she had not, in the sense that she *was* seeing sheep for the first time — as if through the eyes of Henry Moore.

This freshening of perceptions is the whole point of a trip to Perry Green. Moore's work has become so famous that it can seem overfamiliar. But here in the Hertfordshire countryside it finds a new liveliness as senses awaken to the landscape in which the pieces are set. The wind threads the holes of their needle-eyes. The bough of a willow seems all the more fragile for brushing the burnished weight of a bronze, while, beside the willow's sway, the bronze appears even more immovably placid.

Moore's mountainous sculptures swell from the landscape from which they were conceived. And exhibitions housed in the new gallery and in Moore's former studio spaces trace the evolution of each sculpture from the shapes of flintstones, fossils and bone, through sketches and careful maquettes, to squared-up polystyrene models and full-scale plaster forms waiting to be cast.

The completed sculptures, in their turn, breathe life back into the landscape. A figure carved out of elmwood reclines on its plinth in the Sheep Field Barn. The soft warm glow of its polished surface, the ripple of the grain, the billow of the knots, pay homage to the tree from which it was shaped, to the elms which must once have lined Perry Green's hedgerows.

Outside, at the edge of a flowerbed, I catch the sharp scuttle of a blackbird. Why does it seem so familiar? Because I have just seen it inside — in a small piece called *Bird Form* carved from glossy black serpentine, capturing the quickened energy of the real bird in its abstract lines.

To see with Moore's eyes is to meld the mind of man with nature, to mould something new from ancient, organic forms. But still, as I drifted through meticulous gardens, I couldn't help wondering how Moore's works would look if they were placed in some bleaker, less domestic setting, amid the wilderness of the Yorkshire moors, perhaps. Much has been written of the influence of Moore's native Yorkshire landscape on his sculptures. But would the untamed beauty render them docile? Would the barrenness simply return them to rocks? The power of Moore's sculpture probably depends on something softer. Perhaps that was why he chose Perry Green.

● *Dane Tree House, Perry Green, Much Hadham, Herts. Visitors, by appointment only, between April and mid-October (01279 843 333)*

A suitable boy

CONCERT

ECO/Goodwin
Barbican

Why wasn't this boy tucked up in bed? He certainly looked young enough as he leapt up the platform steps, strolled to the piano, and sat down to Mozart's *Coronation Concerto*, No 26 in D. This was Gianluca Cascioli, who won first prize at the Umberto *Micheli International Piano Competition* in 1994 at the age of 15. Since then there have been tours, CDs, solo recitals: all the signs of a great career opening up.

Cascioli's touch in the Mozart — clear highlight of the English Chamber Orchestra's "Serenade for Spring" concert — was light and gentle. He beckoned you to listen, and beguiled with his intelligence and simplicity. Paul Goodwin, conducting in a fashion-defying Nehru jacket, also held back on the ceremonial pomp. Shows of pianistic force were left to the cadenzas; for the rest, Cascioli flitted delicately over the keys, never more so than in the opening theme of the larghetto, one of those sweet nothings that only Mozart could make sound meaningful. Hearty applause from the modest audience: then, for Cascioli, cocoa and bed.

After the interval it was novelty time, and the world premiere of an ECO commission, *To the Cherry Blossom* by Yui Kakinuma. The strings struck up with shifting chords, half English pastoral, half French Impressionist; a solo violin (Paul Barritt) attempted the lark's ascent. Then we heard from Richard Stagg's shakuhachi, a traditional bamboo flute, Chinese in origin, initially played from the back of the stalls. Stagg, in oriental dress, subsequently moved centre stage, to no great result: we were still stuck with the same plaintive meanderings, the same unproductive clash of cultures. The work will come in handy for the orchestra's next Japanese tour, though its life in Britain, I suspect, is going to be brief.

Schubert's Fifth Symphony, heard once in his lifetime, is now never short of revivals. Paul Goodwin's was serviceable, but there was nothing to make this performance stand out. The ECO played with spirit, though the minuet's rhythms needed more snap; extra hints of underlying turbulence would also have helped to cast off the shroud of blandness.

Ravel's usually disarming *Le Tombeau de Couperin*, the concert's opening work, was even easier to shrug off. For an oboist-turned-conductor, Goodwin did strangely little to encourage the band's woodwind contingent to keep their solos piquant and shapely. Ravel needs to dance, sway, and sparkle; this performance stood still.

GEOFF BROWN

■ POP PROFILE
Lilac Time never give up

■ POP GIGS
Superb Stereophonics

King of the mild frontier

Stephen Duffy is a gentle, talented man with an unfortunate death wish where his career is concerned

Here are Stephen Duffy's five favourite years: 1983 ("Dropped by WEA"); 1986 ("Dropped by Virgin"); 1990 ("Dropped by Fontana"); 1993 ("Dropped by Parlophone") and 1997 ("Dropped by BMG").

"It's good for the soul," he beams. "It's a learning process. What have I learnt? That I'm not doing it for the money. That there's a lot of record labels in Britain. That it's not a good idea to make a folk album with banjos on it in 1986."

CAITLIN MORAN

You can always judge an artist by what they are dropped for. In Duffy's case, it's the simple belief that when you are standing at a crossroads with "Predictability, Selling Your Soul for Sixpence and the Top 40" signposted in one direction and "Interesting Hill Walk" in the other, you should always travel with the charts to your back.

As with all classic stories, there was a revelation before he took to the hills: while on holiday in Jamaica more than a dozen years ago, he had taken a tape of Nick Drake's *Five Leaves Left* to Noël Coward's graveside. "I was amazed by the fireflies," he recalls. "I'd never seen them before — I thought I was creating them in my head."

When the song *Riverman* came on the tape player, and Drake sang: "Tell her all I can/ About the plan/For lilac time", Duffy took it as a sign. He came home and formed the Lilac Time with his brother, and wrote an album about a world forgotten: one where days are spent in the fields and evenings spent out on the verandah, with the boys reading poetry and the girls plotting revolutions to take place on Monday, eventually cancelled because the weather's too nice.

He recorded the album, took it into Virgin and "they dropped me as soon as they heard it". He beams. "They said: 'It doesn't sound much like Rick Astley'."

Believing that this was a good thing, Duffy then signed to Fontana, which released the next three Lilac Time records. Glorious June pop they were, all of them. The most vivid of them, *Paradise Circus*, was recently voted one of the Greatest Alternative Albums of All Time in a newspaper poll.

The charts, however, were no place for pop Evian, and, after each and every album bombed like a lead dodo, Fontana acted like a bunch of scab-gnawing weasels — and dropped him. Then they deleted his entire back catalogue. It's for this reason alone that, in our current climate of artistic re-evaluation, the Lilac Time haven't been rediscovered in the same way that Nick Drake has.

By now it was 1989, and Parlophone's turn to sign Duffy. Having broken up the Lilac Time in a fit of depression, he decided to make his Hill Walk even more interesting, and teamed up with the widely derided violinist Nigel Kennedy. To make a psychedelic prog-rock album. In 1990.

"They were the grunge years," Duffy recalls, shrugging. "Everything was loud and mud-coloured. And I was, well, you know."

He was, well, you know, fantastically, gibboningly insane. The album, *Music in Colours*, sounds like a caravan of gypsies exploding on their way to the Moon. Rarely has a songwriter sounded so overcome by his own music.

Rarely has an album died so fully. Parlophone acted like a shoal of startled mackerel — and dumped him. Duffy ran away to Alaska, and came back with *I Love My Friends*, an intimate, self-excoriating album about past lovers and dead parents. His new label, BMG, acted like a gang of ghost-spooked toddlers — and dropped him two weeks before it was released. However, when his current label, Cooking Vinyl, released it, it was voted one of the Albums of the Year by *The Times*, *Time Out*, *The Independent* and *Tatler*.

Around the same time, the School of Duffy started to graduate: Suede, Ocean Colour Scene, Belle and Sebastian cited him as genius seed. People had started to tire of the dull plains, and were taking to the hills to find him.

And so Stephen re-formed the Lilac Time and, with his advance of £5,000, mended his brother's garage roof. Under its newly tiled eaves he recorded his new album *Looking for a Day in the Night*, in many ways the album of his life because it's, well, the Album Of His Life.

Family Coach tells the story of Christmas 1968 — "The Christmas when it snowed". *All Over Again* goes "Tomorrow I'll be dropped by BMG/ It doesn't bother me/I know underground stars can't fall further". *Nursery Walls* is *Amazing Grace* for lovers in therapy: absolute redemptive genius.

"I kind of know why I'm not in the charts," he says, ruefully. "I have a really quiet voice, and all really successful singers can kind of go 'Yarg'. The only songwriter with a quiet voice who's ever made it was Paul Simon. And he had the tall guy to go 'Yarg'."

● Looking for a Day in the Night *is released by Cooking Vinyl*



Stephen Duffy (left) and Michael Giri of the Lilac Time, purveyors of warm, sensitive, perfect pop to an unheeding world

All together

LIVE GIGS

Stereophonics
Plymouth

Having sold close to half a million albums in just two years, Stereophonics are one of modern British rock's rare success stories. Baffling high-brow critics as they storm the charts with every new release, the straight-talking traditionalism of this South Wales guitar trio seems to have tapped into a vast constituency of disenfranchised young rock fans almost overnight.

Singer Kelly Jones, especially, embodies the sort of wholesomely iconic frontman who could almost have been purpose-built by a record company marketing department. He is pretty enough to rival any boy-band pin-up, which may help to explain the excitable female contingent at the Plymouth Pavilions on Wednesday night, yet robustly masculine enough to win over a traditionally male rock audience too. His storytelling lyrics twang heartstrings while his songs blend the thunderous attack of heavy metal with a flair for rich, resonant melody.

But the singer's real secret weapon is his gruff, stirringly emotive voice. Crashing into high gear right from the opening number, *Roll Up And Shine*, his lungs scarcely had a chance to rest before *The Bartender And The Thief* catapulted him skywards once more. Only with the arrival of the trio's slightly less frenetic new single, *Pick A Part That's New*, did Jones switch into broody balladeer mode.

These lusty football-terrace anthems are clearly designed to be roared by vast crowds. The young rock fans of Plymouth duly screamed along to even the most obscure tracks from the band's recently released second album, *Performance And Cocktails*. Stereophonics may not challenge their audience, but they certainly leave them feeling exhilarated.

STEPHEN DALTON

Sorry, chums

Belle and Sebastian
Dublin

Venerable indie pop messiahs or execrable anti-rock pariahs? Belle and Sebastian compel and repel in equal measures. But they were among friends at the Olympia, transformed into a thousand-strong church of happily lost souls who believe this Glasgow-based octet to be the apotheosis of the indie aesthetic and, in the afterglow of their successful Bowlie Weekender at Camber Sands, living proof that every underdog does ultimately have its day.

But the performance was not so much liturgical as just plain lethargic. Belle and Sebastian have always preferred to maintain a self-effacing anonymity rather than kowtow to the cult of personality. But the fact is that there were eight musicians pottering before us who collectively have the stage presence of a cardboard box.

And as the gig limped slowly on, one could palpably feel their self-mythologising mystique drain away, leaving us with what? A bunch of carefully crafted, literate pop songs that can be pleasingly wry and witty but also selfconsciously clever. It's all rather bloodless and, there's no getting away from it, sexless.

The telling moment came near the end, when someone shouted a request for the Sex Pistols' *Anarchy in the UK*. Alive to the inherent criticism in such a barbed remark, Stuart Murdoch (main songwriter and singer) kicked over his mic stand and smashed his electric guitar on the floor of the stage. Brilliant, I thought: an ironic comment on the jaded histrionics of punk rock and an acknowledgement of his band's minuscule rock credentials. But then Murdoch ruined it: he apologised. That's the problem with Belle and Sebastian: their suffocating, strangulating politeness.

NICK KELLY

Siblings without rivalry

Melky and Sedeck Jean are hot on the heels of their Fugees brother, Wyclef. Lisa Verrico reports

The 21-year-old singer Melky Jean knows how to make an impression. Last month, at her band's debut London gig at Ronnie Scott's, the larger-than-life New Yorker appeared on stage in a skintight top, micro shorts and a pair of thigh-high, leather boots. Between fiery funk tracks with titles such as *Shake It* and *High Heel Shoes*, she would drop to the floor, throw back her huge mane of hair and writhe about on her back. When she later invited male members of the audience to join her on stage, only Radio 1 DJ Trevor Nelson was brave enough to accept her offer. As soon as the singer launched into hilarious lyrics about men being lousy lovers, however, the squirming jock must have wished he had stayed in his seat.

In a London hotel room, sitting alongside Sedeck, her 23-year-old brother and fellow band founder, Melky attributes her aggressive stage act to a childhood spent singing in church.

"When you perform for a Christian congregation," she says, "you have to be passionate. The aim is to share your emotions, to make other people feel what you are feeling." The only daughter of an ordained minister, at the age of six Melky was not only singing in church but directing the choir. Already she had spent two years fronting a family band, in which she was backed by her three elder brothers on guitar, bass and drums.

"We were the Jacksons of the Christian community," she says. "When I was five, we moved from Brooklyn to New Jersey and became the house band of the local church." The children's strictly religious upbringing meant that they could play only Christian music. "Pop was not allowed in our house," recalls Melky, who spent secret hours in her bedroom pretending to be Diana Ross. "We could listen to Christian rock though. We tricked our parents by telling them that Sting and Peter Gabriel were Christian singers, then when we performed their songs, I would change the lyrics to make them sound spiritual."

The family's attempts to ban pop backfired badly. The eldest son, Wyclef, went on to form the Fugees with his cousin, Pras Michel, and schoolmate Lauryn Hill. Second child Samuel is now an entertainment lawyer, while Sedeck became a studio engineer before teaming up with his sister four years ago.

At high school, both Melky and Sedeck excelled at public performance. Sedeck became a local debate champion, while Melky's first band, an eight-piece all-girl outfit, won a Sony Innovators Award.

"I had written some songs, then found seven friends, who each sang in a different pitch, and taught them all the parts," she says. "One day, a teacher overheard us practising in the playground and asked if she could enter us in a talent contest." The Sony Award led to Melky's band being invited to perform in front of President Clinton and Desmond Tutu when the pair made an official visit to New Jersey. Subsequently, the singer was sent to study classical music and opera at a performing arts school, where it was discovered that she had a huge vocal range.

During a summer spent answering telephones in Wyclef's studio, Melky inadvertently heard a track written by Sedeck and asked to sing vocals on it.

With a little help from the Fugees, the song ended up on the soundtrack to the hit American movie *Love Jones*, after which music became a full-time concern for both teenagers.

Two years in the making, Melky Sedeck's adventurous debut album, *Sister & Brother*, released in the UK next month, is a classy, midtempo mix of the siblings' many musical influences, including soul, hip hop, gospel, classical and opera. The album also contains a radical reworking of the Lulu B-side, *To Sir, With Love*, and a hidden track, *Tragedy*, which features Wyclef on guitar.

"Our songs are unusual because we grew up listening to gospel singers such as Mahalia Jackson and Tramaine Hawkins, but at the same time we snuck soul, rock and hip hop records into the house," explains Sedeck, who produced and played all of the instruments on the album.

Despite the good-looking duo's distinctive sound, exciting live show and insider industry contacts, it took Melky Sedeck more than two years to secure a record deal.

"Because we're black artists from New York, related to one of the Fugees, record companies kept asking us to rap," sighs Sedeck. "Most of them also wanted to take the classical piano and Melky's opera singing off the songs. We refused."

Following a recent US tour with Black Eyed Peas, the band are currently supporting the Roots throughout Europe and comes to London in a fortnight to play a headline show at Subterania. One person who won't be in the audience, however, is the pair's father.

"Dad used to take us to a lot of Christian and gospel concerts when we were kids," says Sedeck, "but would never come to one of our shows. He won't even listen to our records. He believes that pop music goes against his religion." Not that Melky minds his absence.

"I try not to imagine what my dad would do if he saw me on stage," she says, suddenly sounding shy. "I think he would either pray for my soul or give up on God altogether."

● Sister & Brother *is out on Universal on May 17. Melky Sedeck play at London Subterania, W10 (0181-960 4590) on May 17*

The component parts of Melky Sedeck: "I try not to imagine what my Dad would do if he saw me on stage"



POP ALBUMS
Are Suede exhausted?

ARTS

JAZZ ALBUMS
Boisterous Bonga

NEW POP ALBUMS: They try hard, but Suede really aren't the look for 1999, says **David Sinclair**

Scuffed and down-at-heel

SUEDE
Head Music
(Nude 14 £15.99)
THE end of the 1990s is proving a tough time for rock groups. In the face of increasingly stiff competition from a parade of dance acts, pop singers, stuffed toys and other contenders, the loyalty which has sustained the careers of so many long-running rock groups seems to be breaking down. New albums by Kula Shaker, Skunk Anansie, the Cranberries and Reef have all underperformed when compared to previous chart-topping achievements, and while Suede have weathered more than their share of crises, they could now be facing their most severe test.

That being so, it is unfortunate that they return to the fray with an album which, despite its melancholy charm, lacks the relentless sense of drive and destiny which was the hallmark of its three predecessors. On slow songs such as *Asbestos* and *Hi-Fi*, there is a dull sense of alienation — "Sulking on the subway/Listening to the trains" — while on *Down* Brett Anderson sings of a depression which encroaches on the perception of everything he sees, until eventually "You draw the blinds and blow your mind away".

In a lighter vein, *She's in Fashion* and *Elephant Man* take wry swipes at superficial media celebrities and rapacious rock bands respectively, but do nothing to assuage the album's mood of world-weary cynicism.

New producer Steve Osborne brings a modern, electronic sheen to the sound, but he does not have a sympathetic ear for guitar textures, and the guitar and bass sounds are frequently tinny, tangled and over-treated, especially on the single, *Electricity*.

When it gels, as on the gorgeous ballad *Everything Will Flow*, the majestic *He's Gone* and the faintly Eastern-sounding *Indian Strings*, the old magic returns. But despite the evident craft with which *Head Music* has been assembled, there is a listless undercurrent pulling the music towards a point at which decadence gives way to dissipation.



On Suede's new album, *Head Music*, a listless undercurrent apparently pulls the music towards a point at which decadence gives way to dissipation. Sounds like fun

LUNA
The Days of Our Nights
(Beggars Banquet
BBQ CD 209 £15.99)
YOU would imagine that, having toured with their heroes, the Velvet Underground, on their reunion dates of 1993, and recruited the late Sterling Morrison to play guitar on their 1994 album, *Bewitched*, anything else must be something of an anti-climax for Luna. In fact, *The Days of Our Nights* is the American alternative-rock group's third album since then, and it sounds as gently intriguing as anything else they have done.

Singer and guitarist Dean Wareham exudes a resigned air of ennui on numbers such as *Seven Steps to Satan* — "The world is hard to understand/Inside my head it's raining" — while scuzzy slide guitars surf across the mix. It is pleasant enough for as long as the fix lasts, but the effect is curiously transitory. Even a version of the Guns N' Roses hit *Sweet Child O' Mine* is so restrained that it gains a new, contemplative dimension, but loses its bite.

ERIC BENÉT
A Day in the Life
(Warner Bros
9362-47370 £15.99)
LIKE most men of his calling, the soul singer Eric Benét is not slow to put his cards on the table when it comes to the seduction game. "Now hike up that skirt and show me just where I belong", he sings in a voice like sticky chocolate on *That's Just My Way*, the opening track of his second album, *A Day in the Life*.

Tempting as it is to dismiss the 29-year-old R&B star from Milwaukee as just another egotistical lothario, Benét is blessed with an unusually rich and supple voice, able to sustain a lazy, sensual croon on the jazzy *When You Think of Me* or take off into a frightening falsetto during *Love the Hurt Away*.

An impressively varied cast of collaborators including Wyclef Jean, Roy Ayers and Faith Evans helps to keep the formula from becoming predictable. And, occasionally, when not bestowing his favours on that special lady of the moment, Benét reveals a philosophical side to his nature. "Time waits for no one/It just moves on" he muses on *Dust in the Wind*. More than just a pretty face, then.

LINKS

WEBSITES:
Suede: www.suede.net
Luna: www.beggars.com
Eric Benét: www.wbr.com/ericbenet
James Hardway: www.hydrogendukebox.com
TELEVISION:
Top of the Pops: BBC1, tonight, 7.30pm
RADIO:
UK Top 40: Radio 1, Sunday, 4pm

JAMES HARDWAY
A Positive Sweat
(Recordings of Substance
HEMP 28 CDX £12.99)
SALES of drum and bass records may have dried up, but that does not mean inspiration has gone the same way. James Hardway, the alter ego of London-born programmer and multi-instrumentalist David Harrow, continues to push the frontiers forward with his third album, *A Positive Sweat*.

Having toured extensively with his band, Hardway has established a rapport with the musicians that lends a "real life" energy to his distinctive fusion of jazz-noir horn arrangements and skittish, mechanically-generated rhythm tracks. The result, roughly speaking, is an amalgamation between the imaginary soundtrack creations of Barry Adamson and the minimalist percussive surge of Roni Size: positive indeed.

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(2)	Gold - Greatest Hits	Abba (Polydor)
2	(1)	Equally Cursed and Blessed	Catatonia (Blanco Y Negro)
3	(5)	You've Come a Long Way, Baby	Fatboy Slim (Skint)
4	(4)	Talk on Corners	Corrs (Atlantic)
5	(3)	Forgiven, not Forgotten	Corrs (Atlantic)
6	(6)	Performance and Cocktails	Stereophonics (V2)
7	(9)	Rides	Reef (Sony S²)
8	(7)	I've Been Expecting You	Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
9	(12)	Fanmail	TLC (LaFace)
10	(18)	Bury the Hatchet	Cranberries (Island US/Mercury)

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Citizen of two worlds

NTSHUKS BONGA'S TOKOLOSHO
Abo Bhayi
(Nota Bene NBCD 001)
ONE of the latest of a distinguished line of South African jazz musicians who have made their homes in Britain, Ntshuks Bonga has deep roots in both the music of his homeland and free jazz, and each tradition is powerfully present in this live sextet recording.

Thus infectiously rollicking rhythms, woozy shuffles and melancholy laments jostle with growling free-for-alls and tear-it-up solo features showcasing the fruitily abrasive tenor of John Grieve, the leader's agile but passionate alto or the vigorous blare of Winston Rollins's trombone.

JAZZ ALBUMS

Hymnic, lilting melodies from Veryan Weston's piano lead to frantic front-line improvisations over boiling rhythm-section work from alternating drummers Mark Sanders and Brian Abrahams and bassist Julia Doyle.

Plaintive close-harmony horn themes spark off rambunctious, unfettered group interplay recalling Mingus's most rousing sextet work. In short, Bonga's music is rich, passionate, exuberant and deeply affecting.

MATT WATES SEXTET
Smallbills Garage
(Audio-B Ltd ABCD 9)
DESCRIBED as "an album of contemporary West Coast jazz" on its cover, alto saxophonist Matt Wates's third sextet recording does recall, courtesy of its airy, bright, punchy approach, the music of 1950s California.

"Contemporary" is an important qualifier, however: the playing of Wates's frontline partners — trumpeter Martin Shaw and saxophonist/flautist Andy Panayi — is, in its polish and sophistication (not to mention its vigour and garrulity), very much a product of late-1990s London.

The rhythm section balances the experienced wit and poise of pianist John Pearce against the brisk, controlled power of drummer Steve Brown and the propulsive energy of label-supremo Malcolm Creese on bass. But it is Wates himself, both in the agile inventiveness of his alto playing and the jaunty cogency of his compositions, who makes this no-frills, totally unpretentious album such an unequivocal delight.

CHRIS PARKER

Arabian knight life

Music may well be the food of love, but the combination of listening and eating has never produced a particularly inspired soundtrack. An indigestible menu of dinner jazz, cabaret singers and tinkling cocktail pianists has become the standard fare. But now two of life's greatest sensual pleasures are being reunited in a radically different style at Momo, one of the West End's most voguish restaurants.

> If Arab music conquers the world, Mourad Mazouz will have done his bit

Frequented by the likes of Stella McCartney, Naomi Campbell and Madonna, Momo specialises in North African cuisine, served up to an accompaniment of swirling Arab music. Situated in a quiet mews off Regent Street, it also boasts in its basement the Kemia Bar. Here, banging dance mixes of Middle Eastern beats have made the Kemia one of the hottest properties on London's club scene.

Now comes the album of the club of the restaurant. Compiled by Mourad Mazouz — Momo to friends and customers alike — *Arabesque: A Momo Compilation* is a thrilling collection which not only shows off the haunting vocals of the Egyptian-born Natacha Atlas, and the more traditional voices of Algerian *rai* stars such as Cheb Mami and Khaled, but also includes dynamic Western remixes of Arabic rhythms by the Stereo MCs, Tranquility Base and MC Sultan.

Others have not been slow to see the potential. Atlas's *Gedida* has received rave reviews in the mainstream music press for its evocative blend of Arabic mystery and flowing dance grooves. Even the major labels, usually the last to recognise a burgeoning underground scene, have jumped on the bandwagon. EMI last month released *Camelspotting*, a compilation of popular hits from the Levant including *Nour el Ain (The Mind's Eye)* by the Egyptian singer Amr Diab, the biggest-selling single the Arab world has seen.

RICHARD CANNON



"Half of the world listens to Arab music," says restaurateur Mourad Mazouz. "But Britain knows nothing about it"

"Every night people ask me where they can get the music," Mazouz says. "I was going to start making my own tapes to give them but then I decided to make an album for everybody. All the customers we have come for the music as much as for the food."

Now in his mid-thirties, Mazouz was born to Berber parents in Algeria but moved to Paris when he was 16. He drifted into music PR and then spent five years backpacking around Africa. He also lived for a while in Indonesia. Back in Paris he opened his first bar at the age of 25 and put the music he had collected on his travels at the centre of the experience. Two acclaimed restaurants followed, where he further developed the Momo style.

When he opened in London in April 1997, Madonna booked Momo for a party on its first night (the builders were still finishing as the limousines pulled up). For the first three months Mazouz took charge of the decks before bringing in DJ Francis Peyrat, now as important a figure at Momo as its Moroccan chef, Richard Meyniel.

"At first everybody could come in, but I didn't know the success we were going to have and we had to make it a membership club," Mazouz says. "But if you arrive and you are smiling and nice and interesting you will get in. The only people we try to avoid are the bankers. They come and think with their money they can buy anything and we hate that."

Later this year Mazouz will open a £1.5 million club in nearby Conduit Street as the original bar cannot cope with the regular queues outside. "The new place will be somewhere you can eat and listen to music and talk and dance," he says. "It will be a more chilled atmosphere, a temple of sound."

More Momo albums are in the pipeline. "This music is my roots," Mazouz says. "The idea was to make the record traditional but also accessible, with dance rhythms and so on. I want to surprise people.

"It's not background music, it's integral to the experience. Half of the world listens to Arab music, but Britain knows nothing about it."

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

● Arabesque — A Momo Compilation *is released by Gut Records. Momo is at 25 Heddon Street, London W1 (0171-434 4040)*

ARTS

■ LISTINGS
Ellington centenary

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

CARMEN: Bizet's sensual tragedy returns to English National Opera. American mezzo Phyllis Pancella sings the title role (Sally Burgess takes over later in the run), with Alan Woodrow as the hapless Don José. David Ritch directs this revival of Jonathan Miller's production. Michael Lloyd conducts. **Coliseum** (0171-632 8300). Opens tomorrow, 7pm.

THE LAST THRASH: Sam Walters joins his repertory company to play the Headmaster in David Cregan's new play about today's prep schools. Dominic Hill directs. **Orange Tree** (0181-940 3633). Opens tonight, 7.45pm.

DUKE ELLINGTON: The centenary celebrations continue with a free foyer event tonight by the Echoes of Ellington Big Band (5 15pm). A marathon programme tomorrow culminates in two evening concerts in the Queen Elizabeth Hall. At 5.30pm Diego Masson conducts the London Sinfonietta in a selection of recent music inspired by Ellington, while at 8pm the Stan Tracey Big Band pays homage to the great jazz-man in a concert of some of his best-known numbers. **South Bank** (0171-960 4242).

PALACE OPERA: The company's new production is a double bill of two one-acters: Stravinsky's brutal but beautiful Oedipus Rex and Massenet's rarely performed La Navarraise. Leah Houseman directs Anya Kubrick's productions. **Bloomsbury** (0171-388 8822). Tonight, tomorrow, May 4 and 5, 7.30pm.

Diego Masson conducts new music in the QEH

ELSEWHERE

BRIGHTON: A concert by the **Philharmonia Orchestra** is the first outpouring from this annual cornucopia of cultural events, the Brighton Festival. Vladimir Ashkenazy conducts an all-Rachmaninov programme which includes the technically challenging Third Piano Concerto. With the Russian piano virtuoso Arcadi Volodos as soloist. **Dome** (01273 709709). Tomorrow, 8pm.

GLASGOW: The students of the **Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama** put on the first of four performances of Benjamin Britten's enduring comedy of rural English life, Albert Herring. William Relton directs. The conductor is Timothy Dean. **New Athenaeum Theatre** (0141-332 5057). Opens tomorrow, 7.15pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

■ **PLENTY:** Cate Blanchett plays David Hare's heroine in her years of dissent from 1943 to the 1960s. Jonathan Kent directs first major revival for 21 years. **Albery** (0171-369 1740).

□ **THE BIRTHDAY PARTY:** Prunella Scales and Timothy West head a strong cast in Pinter's first full-length play, memorably joining comedy and menace. Joe Harmston directs. **Piccadilly** (0171-369 1734).

■ **SLEEP WITH ME:** Penny Downie, Jonathan Hyde, Adrian Lukis in Hanif Kureishi's tragi-comic satire exposing the chaotic lives of a group of friends. Anthony Page directs. **Cottesloe** (0171-452 3000).

■ **MAMMA MIA!:** Enjoyable musical that tells a tale of three fathers of a bride in order to steer a barmy way through a torrent of Abba hits. Phyllida Lloyd directs. **Prince Edward** (0171-447 5400).

□ **SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER:** Sheila Gish plays the venomous mother and Rachel Weisz the traumatised niece in the famous Tennessee Williams shocker. Sean Mathias directs. **Comedy** (0171-369 1731).

□ **MAKING NOISE QUIETLY:** Dominic Dromgoole's Oxford Stage Co opens a London season with Robert Holman's trilogy of short plays where strangers meet at a time of war. **Whitehall** (0171-369 1735.

◪ **THE GIN GAME:** Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland play old folk in a retirement home whose card-playing styles echo their sad lives. Frith Banbury directs the Pulitzer winner. **Savoy** (0171-836 8888).

□ **THE DISPUTE:** Superb production by Neil Bartlett of his translation of Marivaux where four imprisoned adolescents meet the world and each other for the first time. **Lyric, W6** (0181-741 2311).

□ **A SAINT SHE AIN'T:** Barry Cryer and Jessica Martin in a parody MGM musical by Dick Vosburgh and Denis King. Ned Sherrin directs, probably on a smaller budget than Hollywood. **King's Head** (0171-226 1916).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

eXistenZ (15): Playful futuristic horror from David "Crash" Cronenberg. Jude Law and Jennifer Jason Leigh immerse themselves in a virtual reality game where nothing is as it seems. A corny but fitfully thrilling satire on existentialism.

IN DREAMS (18): Annette Bening plays a housewife whose dreams turn out to be premonitions of a serial killer's intentions. The dream logic in Neil Jordan's chilling film is terrifying. The script is a resounding anticlimax.

AT FIRST SIGHT (12): Val Kilmer's blind beefcake has his sight restored with traumatising consequences. Irwin Winkler's film is far better exploring his dislocation than massaging the tedious love interest.

THE HONEST COURTESAN: (15): Frothy Venetian romance where Catherine McCormack's feminist courtesan conquers Rufus Sewell and half of Venice with her busty charms.

SOLOMON & GAENOR (15): Love among the Welsh coal mines circa 1911. An illicit overblown romance between a young Jewish immigrant, Ioan Gruffudd, and prim local girl, Nia Roberts. Enchanting performances hold the romance in place.

THE WATERBOY (12): Weedy retard Adam Sandler turns into the ultimate college footballer. The satisfying crunch of sheer incompetence against seven-foot goliaths gives him some fitful charm. With Henry Winkler.

KNOCK OFF (18): Van Damme thumps his way through a medley of kung fu stunts and sadistic Russians to save the world from crooks selling exploding jeans. Ghastly.

CURRENT

8mm (18): Nicolas Cage in his most magnetic role ever plays a private eye who sifts the ugly facts surrounding a snuff movie. Joel Schumacher directs.

BESIEGED (PG): Bernardo Bertolucci's cinematic touch in this strange romance between David Thewlis and Thandie Newton is exquisitely light and subtle.

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (12): A corked romance with Kevin Costner and Robin Wright Penn. Small talk is like breaking boulders. A tear-jerker. Take a life-jacket. Luis Mandoki directs.

MISADVENTURES OF MARGARET (15): Brian Skeet's urban romance throws Parker Posey and Jeremy Northam into a dismal, sex-obsessed potboiler. It's awful.

A prince among savage men



THEATRE
Oroonoko
Stratford

Talk about out-Rousseauing Rousseau. The noble savage Aphra Behn created in 1688 is infinitely noble, and savage only when he has a righteous battle to fight. Imagine a blend of Hector, Gawain and Sir Philip Sidney, but proudly African, and you have Oroonoko, the prince-made-slave that Biyi Bandele's adaptation and Gregory Doran's direction try to bring to life on a bare, sun-baked stage in Stratford.

They are modestly successful in that effort, too, and no more sentimental than they are obliged to be. Mark you, the actor cast as Oroonoko, Nicholas Monu, must have blinked when he saw himself described in the original novella. Aphra Behn, who had an eye for a well-proportioned chap and as little colour prejudice as any 17th-century woman, declared that he radiated awe-inspiring beauty, plus courage, grace, intelligence, wit, "and all the civility of a well-bred great man". But if Monu could use a few dozen hours toning up in the gym, he certainly catches the character's honour and confident authority.

When Behn's tale was adapted by Thomas Southerne for the stage in 1696, he apparently ignored its first half, which is set in Oroonoko's homeland. Bandele is right to restore this, and not only because it shows our hero's wife, Imoinda, being sold into slavery after upsetting the moribund king who impotently exercises *droit de seigneur*. He and Doran are able to create some sense of the civilisation from which Oroonoko, too, is abducted, and a true civilisation it is. You would not wish to get on its wrong side — a protection racketeer in the form of a Moorish ambassador is casually decapitated — but you must admire its good order, its sense of propriety, its respect for tradition and (at least if you are into wise saws about yams, melons and fried plantain) its love of language.

This represents Behn fairly, and might be fairer still. Why does Bandele offload much of the responsibility for the prince's enslavement on to a treacherous rival for the Coromantien throne, when the original story describes how Oroonoko's English friend invites him on to his boat for a feast, only to clap him and his fellow-warriors in irons? But when the second half switches the action to Surinam and its plantations there are enough examples of white duplicity. Behn, who had lived there herself, thought Oroonoko superior to his captors in every conceivable respect; and, even if Bandele regrettably omits the passage in which the prince single-handedly slays tigers, they make her point for her.

The acting is a bit uneven, though Geff Francis, Jo Martin and Nadine Marshall do well. Again, it is a little absurd to dramatise an Indian uprising by bringing on one feathered figure to do aerobics in the dark. Yet again, Bandele might have attempted to give us Oroonoko's original end in all its fierce heroism instead of sanitising the vomit-making facts. True, Behn was not quite the proto-Wilberforce that later generations imagined, for her prince regularly sold his foes to Europeans and even in Surinam seems willing to defend slavery's economics, if not its brutalities. But she clearly believed that Africa had its titans too and that they did not merit humiliation, torture and death: surely a remarkable view for 1688.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER



Slings and arrows: Nicholas Monu (Oroonoko) and Ewart James Walters (Akogun)

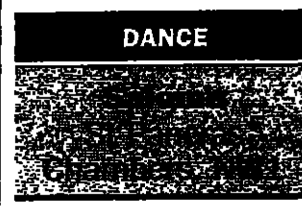
■ DANCE
Around a railway station

Girls in platform shoes

Imaginative dance company seeks adventurous theatregoers for stimulating one-to-one performance. Short-term relationship. Vivid memories guaranteed.

Salome, the site-specific production closing this year's *Spring Loaded* festival, is the work of Susanne Thomas's Seven Sisters group, last seen in London's Waterloo station enacting a series of public arrival and departure vignettes. Clearly this troupe has a thing for railways. This time it has taken over a Victorian-Gothic tower at the marvellous St Pancras terminus. Only now, instead of being visible to all and sundry, the company members are exposing their art to a select few.

Eschewing narrative, Seven Sisters has concocted a moody, occasionally startling psycho-designer's meditation on the biblical tale of Salome, the woman who demanded John



DANCE

the Baptist's head as a reward for dancing for Herod. The audience is admitted singly, guided by a red string overhead studded with silver arrow heads. With its patina of dust and grime, the setting reeks of dilapidated grandeur, dirty secrets and louche recollections.

In this maze of guilty rejection, madness and bruised desire you encounter a number of Salomes. The first are met traipsing up and down a magnificent stairwell, pop-exotic seductresses carrying empty silver trays and casting come-hither smiles. It's quick, flirtatious fun; only later you realise just how fatal these fleeting attractions could be. Film and video footage replaces human beings as you wander through rooms upstairs. "Linger if you like," a brisk redhead lies, for a moment later she's saying: "Chop, chop. Keep moving. And watch your head."

A squalid stair plunges you back down towards the building's dank bowels. A young woman rubs unhappily against a peeling wall, repeating the same, sad, fragmentary script of need and loss as if in a time-loop. The cellar contains a long corridor and a clutch of chambers. Here, in an atmosphere of eroticised bedlam and voyeuristic intimacy, is the rank meat of the performance. A wild woman smashes against reflective panels, then stares you down. One man cradles, then humps, a small television. Another executes his own manic mirror-dance. A different, bird-like redhead chirps: "Do you like watching me?" The answer is a guarded yes.

DONALD HUTERA

Small but perfectly enunciated

OPERA
L'Elisir d'amore
Bloomsbury

Clarity is the chief quality of the modest staging of *Elisir* which the Music Theatre Kernow has brought to start its short season at the Bloomsbury. The programme deliberately refrains from printing a plot synopsis, stating that the stage should tell the story. The claim is justfied. The diction of the company of eight in a racy and very singable translation puts that of many a more illustrious company to shame. Anyone not quite sure why Nemorino eventually wins his Adina has just not been listening.

John Abulafia has updated the action to an Italian village just after the last war. There appears to be no special reason, except that it obviously saves on costumes. Oxfam or granny's old wardrobe will provide. Strange, though, that Sgt Belcore should be recruiting for an army so recently defeated. Two small houses with tiled roofs (designer Miriam Nabarro) are constantly moved around the stage to suggest a busy village atmosphere, no easy matter when there is no chorus to speak of. Kernow might consider engaging a few extras.

Fiona McAndrew, Dublin-born, Australian-educated and a graduate of the Guildhall, looks and sounds the singer destined to move on to higher things. The international background has given her the confidence to bring out the haughty Adina's knowledge that she can play the whole male field around, limited though that may be until the army arives in town.

Her soprano has plenty of flash and accomplished coloratura, although there is a bit of rawness around the edges which needs attention. The final scene where Adina softens and accepts that true heart always wins fair lady was affectingly done.

Stripped of his conventional plumes and with no retinue of soldiery in support, Lucas de Jong had a hard time making an impression of the dashing Belcore. But the bases of a solid baritone are there. Ian Jervis, who looked by far the most experienced of the cast, turned Dr Dulcamara into a down-at-heel huckster with a pannier of cheap grog attached to his ancient bicycle. The usual love potion of Bordeaux here becomes a mixture of rum and grappa. No wonder it works swiftly.

The Nemorino was weak: a neat and pleasing voice, but as yet with nothing like the panache of which Italian tenors are made. Nemorino may be timid, but not that timid. Jonathan Gill conducted.

JOHN HIGGINS

'I know what people want'



Editor of *The Sun* David Yelland has confounded his critics by redefining the paper and raising sales to a two-year high, says Brian MacArthur

David Yelland was 11, a shy boy with a bad wig (he suffers from alopecia) when he announced to his parents that he was going to be a journalist. They told him not to be silly. Still determined to be a journalist ten years later, he got 48 rejection letters when he applied for a post on local newspapers. Only after six months on the dole did he finally get his first job on the weekly *Buckinghamshire Advertiser*.

After that his rise was rapid. Within 12 years he was Editor of *The Sun* and he will soon celebrate his first year in the chair of Britain's biggest-selling national daily newspaper with sales at their highest level for two years.

the media interview

Yelland, now 35, says he is used to proving people wrong. The critics jeered when he was appointed deputy Editor of the *New York Post*. He was an Englishman who had been in the city for only three years. Yet he flourished and fortune smiled on him — he was editing on the night Diana, Princess of Wales died in Paris. He also successfully introduced a new editorial treatment of big tragedies.

"I imagined it was my friends who had been killed and therefore did it more sensitively and sold more papers," he told me when we met on Tuesday. "This is what I did with Jill Dando today. Read my leader, have a look at the respect we had for the family. Have a look at the big image on the front with a small headline. That will sell. I am not just being a nice guy. I know what people want." (For the record, *The Sun* put 19 reporters on the story and devoted 17 pages to Dando's murder. There was no Page 3 girl and Yelland's leader concentrated on the sympathy there would be for Dando's newspaperman father Jack).

It wasn't only Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of the News Corporation, which owns the *New York Post* — and is the parent company of *The Times* — who noticed Yelland and started dropping by his office. So, too, did Bob Wright, the top man at NBC who wanted Yelland as head of news at CNBC, the international business channel.

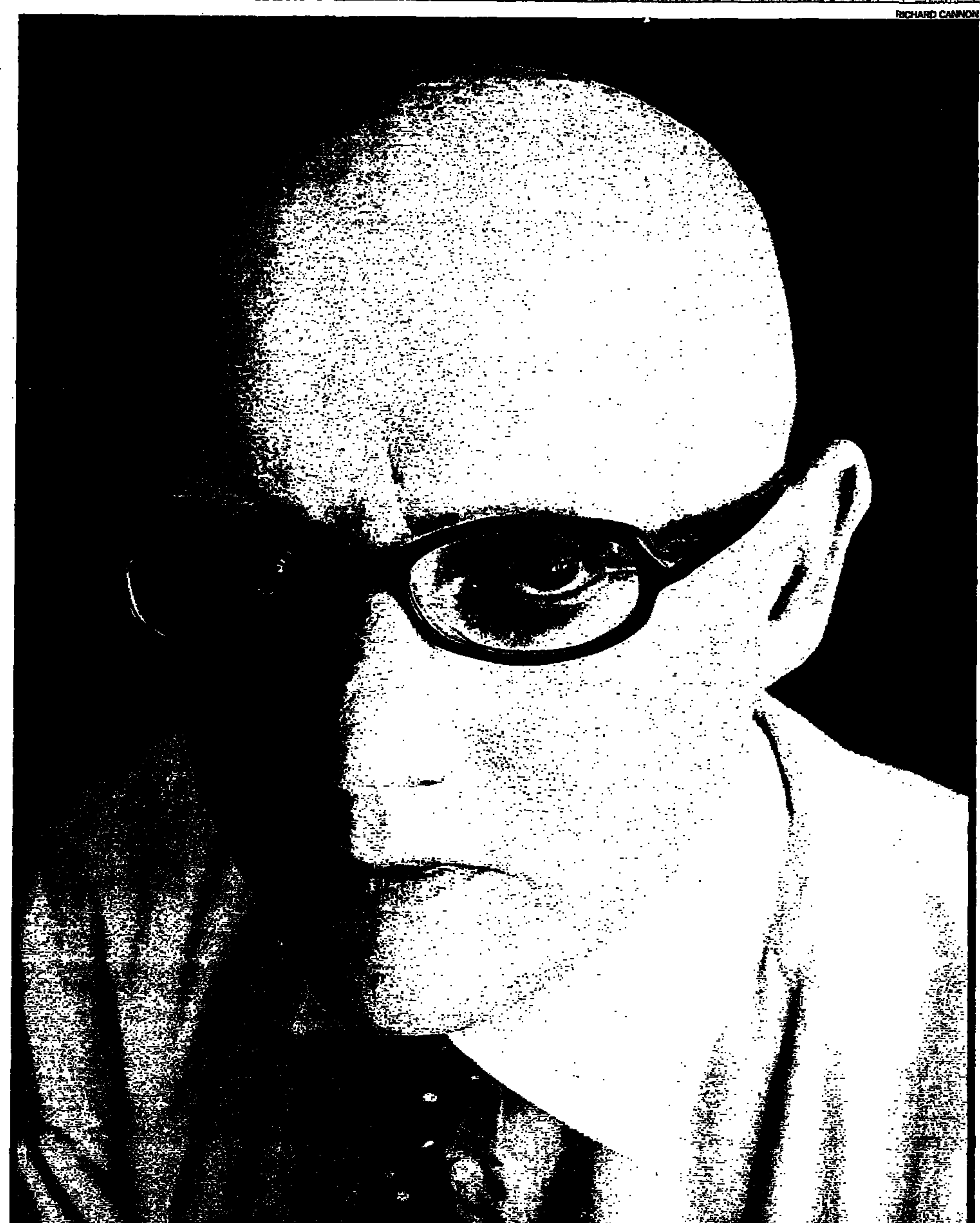
Yelland was offered $1.2 million over three years plus options in General Electric. Yet after a call from Murdoch, who made no counter offer, he decided to turn down CNBC. Six months later, he was Editor of *The Sun*.

As its courting by Tony Blair demonstrates, *The Sun* matters. One reason is that it sells 3.8 million copies a day and has nearly ten million readers. Another is that it sets the agenda of popular debate. *The Sun* has the power either to raise or debase popular taste. As Yelland says, when *The Sun* gets it right, it cheers up the nation. When its judgments are wrong, there is hell to pay.

Its Editor, therefore, works in a goldfish bowl and is under constant scrutiny. Now, after 11 months, Yelland clearly considers that he and his newspaper are wilfully misunderstood. "The Sun and News Corp get a bum rap all the time but we are Number 1 and it comes with the territory", he says.

Although he has also refused to rise to the personal taunts of his major rival Piers Morgan, the Editor of *The Mirror*, they obviously upset him. He cannot help being bald. (He wore a wig from the age of 11 until he was 32 when, mainly because of the encouragement of his wife Tania, he decided to go topless. Even then he only summoned the courage to shed his wig by walking three times round the *Post's* Manhattan building — but was rewarded with a standing ovation when he entered the editorial conference.)

RICHARD CANNON



David Yelland: "I said I would instil confidence, lead from the front, delegate and think and not do another Hillsborough, another Gotcha!"

So what follows is Yelland's answers to the critics, his story of what has been achieved. See him deliver a speech or meet him at Wapping and you quickly realise that his instincts are more cerebral than his predecessors, and that he represents a different generation and faces different challenges.

His return to *The Sun* occurred after a difficult period for his predecessor Stuart Higgins. Sales of the tabloids were sliding. *The Sun* had made a political U-turn to back Blair, and many readers blamed the tabloids — and particularly *The Sun*, though other tabloids were equally obsessed — for the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Yelland's generation benefited from mass higher education (he has an economics degree), it doesn't bash gays and it doesn't talk about Frogs and Krauts. Editorially it embraces the Internet, is on speaking terms with both the palaces, doesn't make up interviews and we certainly won't see a Gotcha! It even offers free Monet prints.

"*The Sun* will not succeed post-Diana if it is perceived to be nasty and vindictive," Yelland says. "The same happened in the supermarket tabloid market in the US and the market collapsed. My move on gays has been misunderstood. I was signalling a sea change. We no longer pursue and ridicule gays. I have forged a new relationship with the Palace and pledged not to invade their privacy."

Yelland returned to *The Sun* with a detailed agenda. One item was to make it the most important political paper in Britain. "I want *The Sun* to dictate the agenda, to lead, to cause a right old rumpus and to make The Sun Says (its leading article) the heart of the paper." He cites two front pages that caused the rumpus he seeks — one devoted to Blair and the single currency ("Is this the most dangerous man in Britain?"), the other devoted to William Hague shown upside down as a parrot ("This party is no more . . . it has ceased to be . . . this is an EX-party"). He cites his campaign against the euro, *The Sun's* backing for Blair in Ireland and Scotland, and its campaigns on welfare reform and supermarket prices. Under Yelland, it feels a more political paper.

That has also been true of the Kosovo conflict, which has been characterised by such headlines as "Clobba Slobba". *The Sun* has strongly supported the air campaign but opposed a land invasion. It has been consistent in its support of Blair, he says, and Nato is winning. "*The Sun* must always and unreservedly support our troops."

Yelland also thought *The Sun* had lost its sense of humour. Another major item on that agenda was to bring it back — which he has done with "Shaft", the new gossip column, "White Van Man", and such "crazy" ideas as *The Sun* prayer mat for England's World Cup games. Both Richard Littlejohn and Gary Bushell, two of the paper's star columnists, are now funnier and less cynical, he says.

Another success Yelland claims is the return of stories that have not been bought — among them Wills meets Camilla, Sophie and Edward to marry and a scoop on the Gulf bombing. He has also made personal visits to *The Sun's* regional offices to rebuild confidence in the heart of the paper — the news reporters. "The paper had become too downmarket and too full of crappy page leads. We needed to instil confidence in the reporters."

Page 3 survives, however. His gut instinct, supported by market research, suggests that the paper would lose more readers than it gained if it was dropped, although the girls are less "white stiletto and Ann Summers" than they were. Complaints are now rare, he says.

"I said I would instil confidence, lead from the front, delegate, *think* (before leaders, before splashes) and not do another Hillsborough, another Gotcha! or make up interviews. Nobody has left since I got here — which is not what we feared."

When his wife was diagnosed with breast cancer a year ago, only two months before he was offered *The Sun*, Murdoch told Yelland he could commute between London and New York on Concorde until the new year. In the event he commuted only for a few weeks but that gesture explains Yelland's fierce loyalty to his boss. "KRM has been superb to Tania," he says. That loyalty does not mean that he is Murdoch's mouthpiece, although he would not have been chosen if he did not share the same agenda. "There has never been a time when he has rung me or asked me to do anything," he says. "He has never dictated a headline or said you should splash on this."

At its peak during the Thatcher years, when Kelvin MacKenzie's *Sun* sold more than four million copies a day with its mixture of genius, exuberance and cheek, *The Sun* captured the mood of an era. Blair's Britain is different. We are all allegedly middle class now and Andy Capp has a PC, owns shares, drinks chardonnay instead of beer, and holidays twice a year in Spain and Florida. So editors of the red-top tabloids must either reflect their readers' changing aspirations and lifestyles or see their sales wither.

Yelland undoubtedly made an uncertain start but the evidence of the past few months has been that *The Sun* is again finding its touch, settling into a new stride — and marching to Yelland's vision. Readers are responding. Sales are up again this month. But his critics will carry on sniping. Only last week, Ian Hargreaves, Professor of Journalism at Cardiff University, accused him in the *New Statesman* of giving birth to a "monstrosity" in his coverage of Nato's bombing of the refugees in Kosovo, a view that is clearly widely shared.

Yelland, nevertheless, thinks he knows the answers — and so far he has always proved his critics wrong. Can he do it again?

Editors unite to stand up for press freedom

Newspaper editors compete. That's what they are there for. They compete against each other and against TV, radio and the Internet. But competition — right across the media — can be a real weakness when it comes to defending the freedoms of journalism: which is where the new Society of Editors comes in.

Government ministers down the decades have asked the same perplexed question when editors went to put their case about pending changes to the law. "Who do you represent?" A simple question with an answer of migraine complexity.

If you were a national editor, as I was, you were probably part of some ad hoc group spatchcocked together by the Newspaper Publishers Association (or sailing under Press Complaints Commission colours). If you were a regional editor you were there for the Guild. And the Association of British Editors? Some nationals, some regionals, an array of broadcasters.

Now one Society, it is hoped, covers all. There were some flaccid assumptions behind the old disorder. National editors barely meet from one year's end to the next. They assumed that the power of their pen and maybe of their proprietor, would dig them out of any legal pit. TV and radio editors have their own governors, or guvnors. That was all right for the high-profile fights on such topics as privacy laws. But what about the Youth Justice Bill, the Data Protection Act, extensions to the Prevention of Terrorism Act — or the silence enfolding our courts and industrial tribunals? The devils here — often unspotted by politicians until it is too late — are in the detail. The point of fighting a case is to fight it before Parliament's verdict. The trouble with threats to free journalism is that they can arise in a local magistrates' court or a TV studio: and hearing about them is key.

So the Guild of Editors and the Association of British Editors have got together in a single Society after overwhelming votes for a merger. More than 400 editors from all disciplines are batting on the same side. The aim is to be part of the argument from the start.

Will it succeed? The other devil, competition, remains. But we are all on the same side of the freedom divide. The Society cares just as much about Whitehall whispering campaigns against John Simpson as it does about the clauses on Freedom of Information about to be unveiled.

I remember, long ago, the then editor of the *FT* berating Lord Goodman of the NPA for a compromise his lordship was putting to the Government. "If this goes through, I shall denounce it in the *Financial Times*," he said. "That, sir, is a threat we shall have to bear bravely," said Goodman. Not good enough: now we can do better.

PETER PRESTON

● *The author was Chairman of the Association of British Editors and is now Vice-President of the Society of Editors.*

What presenter Nick Ross did next

JILL DANDO'S tragic death has ironically coincided with the rehabilitation of Nick Ross, her copresenter. Until three years ago he was a ubiquitous BBC presence hosting, alongside *Crimewatch*, Radio 4's axed *Call Nick Ross*, and *Westminster with Nick Ross*, plus BBC specials.

Always popular with mainstream audiences, he fell out of favour with backstage bosses. Some date the rot back to the time when he put a fuming Sir John Birt, now outgoing Director-General, on the spot over BBC changes before an audience at the Edinburgh Television Festival. Ross has just been lined up to chair a prestigious Radio 4 short series, *The Commission*, in August. And there's a growing band wanting to reinstate him in regular prime slots. *Call Nick Ross* would do fine for starters.

Maggie Brown's MEDIA DIARY

■ NOTE that ITV was able to rush out a special on Dando last Monday at 8pm, upstaging BBC1's 9.35pm tribute, although the BBC's 8.6 million audience licked ITV's 7.8 million. There has been nothing of similar length on big news stories such as Kosovo despite pledges given when *News at Ten* was axed. All a sign of priorities. Is the ITC watching?

■ DANDO is not being replaced as co-presenter of the Baftas next month. Michael Parkinson will shoulder the task alone. The BBC is also pulling *Antique Inspectors*, her new Sunday series. Instead Hugh Scully's *Antiques Roadshow* is being summoned up and he will pay tribute to her at the start of the show.

■ IT'S PUT-on-your-jackets time, lads, and smarten up. Tim Orchard, head of News 24, the BBC's £30-million-a-year news channel, tells me it is to be revamped and repositioned. The ghastly set, like a tile warehouse, is to be replaced to chime with the new look of the mainstream BBC1 *Six O'Clock News*, relaunching in ten days. The aim is to show that News 24 has authority and is part of the BBC News family. It will also deliver news on the hour, like other services. The presenters, yes, are to be told to put their jackets on, especially in the evening, when, says Orchard, viewers want their news to look "considered". Audiences for all rolling news services have risen, at some points tenfold in recent weeks, because of the stream of big news stories and the end of *News at Ten*. BBC research shows the typical News 24 viewer is a conservative 45, likely to be male who wants more sport.

In a related development, Katharine Everett, director of programming at BBC Choice, the other "free" BBC digital channel which started last September, is about to conduct a six-week analysis of how to reposition it. The view is that by trying to offer something for everyone, the £20 million a year service has fallen into the trap of the old Radio 5 — viewers haven't a clue what it is about. It may opt for themed programmes. But a simple catch-up service of top BBC programmes, rather than low-cost experiments, suggested by *Times* media editor Raymond Snoddy, is back in favour.

■ BBC Television's top new publicity team, led by the Controller Sally Osman, is planning to import a controversial system of promoting programmes, honed by her at Channel 5. Called "fewer, bigger, better", only a handful of stars and output deemed to be the best and most representative of, say, BBC1 or BBC2 will be given publicity. Stars who have caught whiff of the plans are furious. The process was copied last year by ITV and is entrenched at Channel 4. The question is whether such a hard-nosed system is suited to a public-service broadcaster.

■ AFTER unseemly brawls at the recent British Press Awards, when tabloid editors alleged they had been "stitched up" by the broadsheets, consider this. David Chipp, the distinguished former editor-in-chief of PA, is retiring as chairman of the judging committee. His replacement? Well, a clutch of former editors. Tony Miles, Bernard Shrimsley, Donald Trelford etc are in the frame. But how about Kelvin MacKenzie? Impossible? "A breath of fresh air," says one mischievous commentator. It might also cure his newspaper itch. Radio industry professionals privately criticise the chief executive of Talk Radio for running it like a newspaper, changing from day to day, confusing listeners.

RICHARD KENDAL/BBC



Jill Dando with Nick Ross who is poised to chair a Radio 4 series

■ FOR the fourth year in a row Moray Forth Radio's kilted top team, led by an ebullient Thomas Prag, walked off with the Sony award for small station of the year. The secret of success (half the population in its catchment area tunes in regularly) is down to its close links with the community. It is currently running a "lamb bank" so that orphans can be matched up with broody ewes: 20 are looking for mums at present.

■ "WHEN I look before me I see a row of ex-bosses. I have more ex-bosses than ex-lovers." — Paul Gambaccini, Classic FM, hosting the Sony Radio Awards.

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media times

What made Jill a star

There is no doubt what the big story of the week has been. The undeclared war in Serbia may have reached a new intensity. A new front in a violent age may have opened up with indiscriminate bombings apparently aimed at ethnic minorities.

But it was the murder of the BBC presenter Jill Dando outside her Fulham home that attracted by far the greatest attention.

It was, of course, a shocking and rare event but the scale of the media reaction still requires some explanation. Why did the *Daily Mail*, for example, think the story was worth 11 pages and *The Sun* 17, and why was *The Sun* still devoting six pages to the follow-ups on Wednesday? Why was there an instant special on ITV, a channel she had never worked for, as well as one on BBC1?

Raymond Snoddy

Ironically news of Dando's death broke audience records for BBC1's *Six O'Clock News*, the programme that she once presented. The 11 million figure beat, by a small margin, the Queen's tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales.

Much of the interest, and the emotional intensity, is understandable. An attractive, talented, young women who has probably appeared in every home in the land at one time or another through the programmes she presented is inexplicably cut down. For good measure she was a famous person who had remained genuinely nice, who did charitable works and was about to get married.

The plausible motives for her murder would keep a thriller writer busy for months. They range from Serbian revenge for the bombing of the Belgrade television station — she presented the television appeal for the Kosovan refugees — to deranged stalkers and a contract killing ordered by someone brought to justice by *Crimewatch*, one of the programmes she presented.

The only certainty about her death is that the casual fame bestowed by television is deeply implicated in some fashion.

Yet there is something more in the reaction. Her death has touched a public nerve in the way that the Princess's did.

The flowers are piling up outside her home complete with personal, emotional messages. The links are being explicitly made. "Can anyone tell us why we have lost another English rose?" one card read.

There can be only one explanation for why people have reacted so emotionally to the deaths of those they are unlikely to have met — the power of television to canonise those who are both blonde and good and who have been found acceptable in a million living rooms.

■ By coincidence one of the largest studies of how audiences interact with TV was published yesterday by the British Film Institute. Two researchers, David Gauntlett and Annette Hill, spent five years gathering information from 500 viewers, aged 9 to 90.

The report, *TV Living*, has a great deal to say about how important an influence television can be. The researchers found that many respondents thought of television as a kind of companion or even friend. For the elderly, television was particularly important, providing comfort in times of illness and grief.

Detailed diaries, compiled three times a year, indicated that the previous distinctions between the tastes of men and women are breaking down. More men are taking an interest in soap operas, while women are just as interested as men in news and current affairs. Not everything has changed, though. Men still like to hold on to the remote control even when there has been discussion about what to watch.

Perhaps the most optimistic finding is that Britons are not a nation of hopeless couch potatoes. Viewers quite consciously regulate how much television they watch and feel guilty if they think they are "seduced" into watching too much.

● TV Living: Television, Culture and Everyday Life *by David Gauntlett and Annette Hill is published by Routledge, £14.99 (hardback £45).*



ROBIN MAYES

Yegor Shishkovsky, DJ with a huge following. "There are 94 million listeners to Radio Russia — you can't ignore a market like that. In six years it won't be a static economy."

The DJ with 40m fans

From a studio in Soho, Yegor Shishkovsky rules the airwaves in his native Russia. **Janie Lawrence** reports

Seated in a Soho café, the Russian DJ Yegor Shishkovsky attracts some whispered interest from two women at a nearby table. The floppy fringe, which gives him a passing resemblance to Leonardo DiCaprio, has them temporarily fooled. Ironically, were we in Russia, this 29-year-old Muscovite would evoke a similar reaction in his own right. Last month at the Moscow International and Tourism Travel Fair (Mitt) several thousand devotees queued up for his autograph.

Given his anonymity here, it is hard to grasp the influence Shishkovsky wields. If the figures are to be believed then he has the largest radio audience in the world. Every Tuesday night 40 million people tune in to his show, *Napryamoyu Zapada* (*Live from the West*), which is broadcast on Radio Russia live from London.

Simultaneously broadcast on the Internet, his audience covers 11 time zones, taking in a land that extends from the base of Finland to the top of Japan. "When you go out of Moscow it's like nothing is going on," says Shishkovsky. "*Live from the West* is their only window to know what's going on in Western music."

Each week listeners send an average of 2,000 letters and photos (regularly pouting women in bikinis) to his Russian mailbox number. There is even the Yegor Shishkovsky website (*www.yegor.com*). The show, broadcast from Angell Sound, a studio in Central London, is a mixture of Western music, social trends and Hollywood gossip. Artists such as Roxette, Celine Dion and Boy George have all made time to be interviewed on Shishkovsky's show. (Recorded in English, they are then given a Russian voiceover.)

"We try to approach the artists direct because they know they have fans over there," says Shishkovsky. "Record company PRs like Sony's are just business-orientated and not helpful because they say it will boost pirate sales — not legitimate sales."

A graduate of Moscow State University, Shishkovsky took a journalism degree course that lasted five years. "Education was free and we had a grant. We could have done it in three years, but we had to study subjects such as the history of the Communist press and scientific Marxism. The books were anti-Western: we were told the communist press was free but Western press had to write what the papers' owners dictated."

While a student, he talked his way into presenting his own show on Radio Yunost (Youth). Shishkovsky believes the 45-minute slot on a Sunday afternoon was the first Russian programme to concentrate wholly on Western music. Initially, at least, offerings such as *Material Girl* did not impress his employers.

"Every Monday my producer would get a call from the boss of the company asking 'Why are you playing Madonna and Michael Jackson? They are the worst examples of decadent Western culture.' Although Gorbachev was in power it took a long time before glasnost and perestroika went through all levels of society, especially the media."

Meanwhile, Shishkovsky's journalist father, Vsevlod, had been sent to London as the Russian TV political correspondent. Over here on a visit, Shishkovsky contacted GLR, the BBC's London radio station, and with one of its producers, Paul Leaper, had the idea of *Live from the West*.

It took two years for the project to take off: Shishkovsky negotiated with various Russian stations while Leaper attempted to get British sponsorship. "We had to keep bashing away," says Leaper.

To date, sponsors have ranged from the RJR company (Shredded Wheat, Camel cigarettes) to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Know-How Fund) and, until recently, the British Tourist Authority. Six weeks ago the tourist authority pulled out, having decided to stop promoting Britain to Russians. Now the show is without a financial backer.

Leaper, however, remains optimistic that he will be able to attract a company interested in building a relationship with Russia. "Radio Russia has 94 million listeners," he argues. "You can't ignore a market like that. In the next six years it won't be a static economy. For a Western company, our production costs are a drop in the ocean." Certainly the audience profile has a decent percentage of what Shishkovsky terms "New Russians". He says: "They travel a lot, have mobile phones, drive BMWs and listen to the latest music." Perfect fodder for advertisers? "Yes they're businessmen," he laughs, "or in the mafia."

Shishkovsky's show can be heard in Serbia — but the subject of the conflict has only been touched on once when he had to announce that the American rock band Kiss had cancelled its Russian concerts because of the anti-American feeling. Was he tempted to add any other comments? "No — politics is too dangerous. And it is not that type of show."

Shishkovsky is more forthright on the quality of Russian music. "There's an element of national pride so there are some stations that only play Russian music. But it's terrible, I can't listen to it."

Until now his success has remained a secret in this country. But it can't be too long before someone decides that an educated Russian with pop star looks could be put to equally good use in the British media.

Who says creativity matters?

Stefano Hatfield

WE ALL know the Smirnoff ads: clever posters and commercials that show a different image, a quirky side of everyday life when viewed through the mind-altering perspective of a Smirnoff bottle.

What's more, those same posters could be seen in cities around the world. Smirnoff came to be regarded as the model of a global advertising campaign: the ads were effective in that they sold vodka, but they were also a great chance to do great creative work for the ad agency involved.

So there was huge surprise in the ad industry this week when Smirnoff's parent company UDV fired the Lowe Group from the £100 million worldwide account to move the business to J Walter Thompson, giving it the Baileys and Malibu brands, too.

UDV emphasised that "it has been entirely satisfied with Lowe's performance", which is rubbish, or else why would the business be moving? However, there genuinely does not appear to be criticism of the work, so why would a client end a flourishing relationship after seven years?

The answer depends on which side you talk to. UDV, as a Diageo subsidiary, is midway through a programme of cost savings pledged at the time of the Grand Metropolitan merger with Guinness. Certainly, there appears to have been an unresolved financial negotiation regarding future terms. With this move, UDV's international roster is pared down to two agencies (Leo Burnett being the other).

However, UDV marketers are known to have been unhappy with both the time it takes to get work out of Lowe, and the cost: not so much the fees, but the huge production budgets involved, particularly for commercials.

In microcosm, this firing represents the current state of the ad industry. The real end product, the creative work, appears to be falling further down the agenda of what marketers want from their ad agencies. Decisions are being taken way over the heads of local marketing directors by a combination of their international counterparts and the new demon, the procurement director.

In short, advertising is becoming a commodity. Cost is being confused with value. The other trend is towards the increased power of the international organisation and the senior executives within them, both at client and agency end.

Once, a "European" prefix to a job title was regarded as the advertising equivalent of the elephant's graveyard. Today these are the men (and they are almost exclusively men) with the real power. None of this should detract from the achievement of JWT in landing the business. As international relationships and long-term account handling abilities grow at the expense of creative excellence, the outlook is rosy for agencies such as JWT, McCann-Erickson and Leo Burnett. A lack of success with local clients (this week JWT lost the £18 million UK Barclays account) can be masked by the strength of the international network. The trouble is that this depresses many people who work in London agencies. They were attracted to their jobs by the chance to create work such as Smirnoff in agencies like Lowe Howard-Spink in a London marketplace regarded as the best worldwide.

Lowe is too good not to get a new drinks client. And JWT is surely too good to waste the chance to produce creative and effective work. But many neutrals in the London ad industry will be saddened by the week's events.

■ HOW about this for a difficult campaign: persuade the public that benefit fraud is wrong by instigating a long-term shift in social attitudes.

It's a big step away from the last Tory Government's approach: shop your neighbours if you suspect them of benefit fraud. That threw up a large number of fraudulent claims, but it also stirred a hornets' nest of false and vindictive reports. If the new plan sounds familiar, it may be because the template is the 20-year-long anti-drink-drive initiative.

There is little doubt that attitudes to drink-driving have hardened but there is a big difference between the two: it is difficult to see how one person's benefit fraud is another's potential death in the way that drink-driving is.

● *Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of* Campaign

MediaNet

AS CONSUMERS become more aware of the Internet, businesses are starting to realise the potential of e-commerce, although many have yet to develop online transactional services.

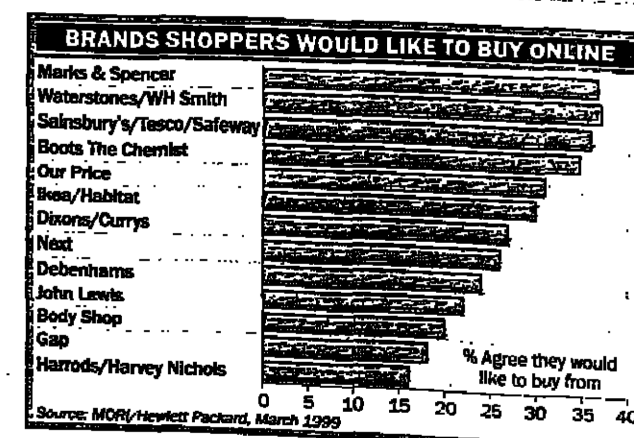
A survey by Verdict Research in January found that although 47 of the UK's top 100 retailers had websites, only 14 per cent of these allowed transactions.

Three quarters of the UK population have yet to make a purchase through the Internet, although not necessarily because they are not interested in electronic shopping, according to a recent MORI survey in association with Hewlett Packard. Some 85 per cent of respondents said that they would consider buying products or services through the Internet. More than half the users, however, felt that online shopping needed to be made more attractive and simple. Flights, holidays and cinema or theatre tickets are the most popular items being sold electronically, followed by computer hardware and software.

Almost 60 per cent of consumers said they were surprised that major retailers did not offer the option of buying online. Of the brands covered by the survey, Marks & Spencer was the company customers would most like to buy from (37 per cent), followed by WH Smith and Waterstone's, and the main supermarkets, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Safeway.

● *MediaTel's online media information and analysis service is accessed via the Internet at http://www.mediatel.co.uk (0171-439 7575)*

BRANDS SHOPPERS WOULD LIKE TO BUY ONLINE



Source: MORI/Hewlett Packard, March 1999



Wannabe Friends?

Carol Midgley reports on ITV's drive to fill its long evenings



Two of the six young hopefuls seeking stardom on ITV's "hip new programme" bear a resemblance to *Friends*' Ross and Rachel

At 9pm tonight Channel 4 will screen its regular weekly episode of the American sitcom *Friends*. An hour later ITV will screen what could arguably be described as its real-life double.

Desperately Seeking Stardom is a new docusoap set in the Hollywood Hills in which the characters have been unashamedly cast in the mould of America's most successful comedy. The three men and three women (two of whom bear a rather too obvious resemblance to Ross and Rachel) were picked from 500 wannabes who applied to star in the eight-part documentary series in the hope that it will deliver them the fame they crave.

Publicity pictures have been shot in the classic *Friends* poses (see picture) and the theme music is suspiciously similar. But perhaps the most significant point about the programme is that it illustrates the drive by ITV's director of programmes, David Liddiment, to make the network younger and more upwardly mobile while retaining mass appeal. It will air at 10pm — the slot vacated by *News at Ten* — and contains the glitz of a traditional Friday night ITV programme but with a determinedly middle-class approach. It is also aimed at the dream 16 to 34 age bracket that has eluded ITV in the past thanks largely to its dated, tacky game-show image. In fact ITV's schedule this evening could practically be Channel 4's. *Desperately Seeking Stardom* runs after *Britain's Richest Kids* at 9pm, a quirky one-hour special about affluent youth, followed at 10.30pm by *Strassman*, an alternative comedy show featuring a sarcastic, foul-mouthed ventriloquist's dummy.

David Green, the head of September Films, which made *Desperately Seeking Stardom*, says the emphasis on middle-class glamour had been deliberate. September was behind the documentary series that included *Hollywood Women*, *Hollywood Men* and *Hollywood Pets*, but Green insists it is not a continuation of the brand.

"We were unashamed about making this young, glossy and aspirational, and the *Friends* connection was not far from our mind. We have picked beautiful people to fit in with the whole *Friends*/*Sex and the City*/*Ally McBeal* thing.

"It was commissioned because David Liddiment and Grant Mansfield were looking for a mass appeal series to pick up that big audience but with a modern, feelgood factor."

The six participants — four Americans, two British — did not know each other before the series began but agree to live in a house together for three months while they try to make it as actors in Hollywood. The series follows their differing fortunes and offers the intriguing prospect of so many big egos sharing one house.

ITV hopes the series will hook viewers from the start and deliver a regular and youthful following. It may, however, suffer from the fact that a chunk of its target audience will be watching *Frasier* at 10pm on Channel 4.

Thanks to the late scheduling (10pm is the latest a docusoap has been broadcast) the series retains a few choice four-letter words and some nudity (one of the girls ends up stripping off for Playboy TV).

"The Friday night schedule shows how times have changed at ITV," says Green. "This sort of stuff used to be the sole territory of BBC2 and Channel 4. It is new, hip and brave. The point about ITV is that it has to capture a mass audience and a 30 to 45 per cent share but it also wants to draw in the younger viewer."

The six participants are already minor stars. They arrived in London this week and were to appear today on *The Big Breakfast*, *This Morning with Richard and Judy*, and *The Ant and Dec Show*.

Grant Mansfield, ITV's controller of documentaries, features and arts, says: "It is an attempt to target a younger audience. It is a youthful, positive, upbeat series that does have a sense of Friends about it. But it is an adult pop-doc series, and for me that is the most interesting thing about it. Some of the most popular documentary series, such as *Driving School*, have been designed for a family audience, but this was definitely not."

"However, it is not necessarily typical of what will be in the 10pm slot on Fridays. The schedule around that time is still evolving."

Comparisons with *Friends* stretch only so far, however. Happily, in the final episode as the six prepare to move out of the house, they are asked their real opinions of each other. Suffice to say that what follows is not an orgy of hugs and high fives.

How Ginger's life lost its spice

A TV documentary portrays Geri Halliwell as a deeply lonely former pop icon, says **Chris Ayres**

Disaster struck a few weeks into the making of *Geri: The Girl Can't Help It*, a "home video" of Geri Halliwell's life since her exit from the Spice Girls.

Halliwell declared one morning that she no longer wanted to take part, leaving Molly Dineen, the celebrated documentary-maker she had chosen to make the film, with hours of wasted footage. But after a confrontation with Dineen, and much flinging of handbags, Halliwell agreed to press ahead with the project.

Anyone who tunes in to Channel 4 next Wednesday at 9pm will understand the reasons for Halliwell's moment of doubt. As Dineen admits, the film shows her living "a very isolated, lonely, unreal life".

Halliwell should have expected nothing less from 40-year-old Dineen, who made her name producing films such as *The Ark*, an unflattering study of London Zoo. Perhaps the ginger one was deceived by her recent "fly-on-the-wall" documentary about Tony Blair, which was used as a party political broadcast by the Labour Party.

Many viewers who sit through *Geri* will, however, be disappointed that the film does not explain why Halliwell gave up a position coveted by millions. "All the Spice Girls are legally gagged from saying anything derogatory about each other," Dineen explains, before admitting that Halliwell asked for many of her remarks about the band to be edited out.

Only once does Halliwell suggest that her departure was more of an expulsion. "I had no choice," she sniffs. When gently pushed, she claims that one particular member of the band wanted her out.



CHANNEL 4

Going solo: Geri Halliwell with her dog, Harry

As any tabloid reader knows, Halliwell, now 26, has gone on to release her first solo single, *Look At Me*, to mixed reviews. According to Dineen, her subject does not enjoy being reminded of the traumatic period that followed her exit from one of Britain's most popular, and profitable, pop acts. She adds that producing the film involved endless battles over editorial control with Halliwell's battalion of advisers.

Dineen admits that her relationship with the singer is "much rockier" than before. They maintain a tentative friendship, however, and even George Michael, Halliwell's friend, reportedly admits that the film is "an incredibly accurate portrayal".

Dineen's film begins with news clips about Halliwell's departure from the Spice Girls — a story that broke on a quiet Sunday, thus ensuring maximum coverage. It then cuts to Halliwell, looking pale and dishevelled, coming to terms with her new life in a Paris hotel room.

From that moment on, the viewer is introduced to an apparently deeply lonely and self-obsessed individual, surrounded by obsequious flunkies. "That period was a purgatory for her," says Dineen, who claims that the washed-out image that Halliwell then adopted was an accident. It was a psychological reaction, she says, to her micro-skirted, loud-mouthed image. "She immediately stopped wearing all her Ginger Spice stuff."

Dineen reacts with horror to suggestions that her film is deliberately unflattering. After all, viewers are treated to footage of Halliwell's shockingly inarticulate performance at the United Nations press conference at which she announced her appointment as a "goodwill ambassador", and her tragicomic discussions with her PR advisers.

"What will you say if they ask you if you're happy after leaving the Spice Girls?" asks a PR flunky before the UN conference. "I'll go deep on them, and ask 'what is happiness?'" she responds triumphantly.

"That's not what I meant it to be like," Dineen argues. She concedes, however, that the film was edited to illustrate Halliwell's apparent loneliness. This is crudely illustrated during the final scenes, which show her Rollerblading alone around a vast, empty house.

At one point, Dineen asks Halliwell if she has any "ordinary" friends. "They have their own lives," she replies. "I want them to come and see me, but they're in Watford."

Sex and Shopping returns to C5

CHANNEL 5 will defy the Independent Television Commission by running a second series of its *Sex and Shopping* documentaries about pornography that the ITC denounced as tacky and voyeuristic. Chris Shaw, the channel's head of documentaries, told **Press Gazette** that the ITC misunderstood the intention of the series, which was to spark debate on one of the world's biggest leisure industries. The second series will be about exploitation and the links between sex and commerce.

■ THE TV commercials production company formed 11 years ago by Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones will close in the summer, reports **Campaign**. Trevor Evans, the managing director of Smith Jones Campbell, said commissions were becoming fewer and less profitable and that Smith was more interested in directing feature films. About half of the staff of ten are expected to join Evans in a new venture.

■ JILL DANDO'S murder forced three magazines to make last-minute changes, says **Press Gazette**. *The Mirror* cancelled the cover story on its Saturday magazine, an interview with the star about her planned marriage that was incorporated into the paper's coverage. *BBC Homes and Antiques* pulled a four-page interview from its June issue and IPC's *Now* brought forward its interview with Dando — her last — that was scheduled for a later date.

TRADE

■ THE LAUNCH PAD: Gruner & Jahr and Haymarket jointly plan women's motoring title, code-named Project Daisy (**Campaign**). May debut of *Men's Fitness* postponed to June after Editor Stephen Ferns quits (**Marketing**).

■ CHANGING FACES: Joe Houlihan, executive producer, to be head of documentaries at LWT (**Broadcast**). Chris Sutcliffe from Bates Dorland to join Universal McCann as strategic planning director; Guy Laurence of Planet Hollywood appointed sales and marketing director for ONdigital; Turner Entertainment Networks hires Simon Cox from CIA Medianetwork as its UK sales controller (**Media Week**).

■ GETTING THE BUSINESS: J. Walter Thompson wins £60 million Elizabeth Arden account but drops out of pitch for Barclays' corporate business: EURO RSWG loses £1 million account for Lakeside shopping centre (**Marketing Week**). New Zealand Tourism Board appoints M & C Saatchi to £18.7 million global account (**Marketing**). Carat tipped to win UDV's strategic planning business from Western International Media (**Media Week**).

MICHAEL LEAPMAN

We just can't get enough of the rich

So says **Philip Beresford**, the compiler of The Sunday Times's list of Britain's wealthiest people

Hunting the rich has always been a Fleet Street obsession, but it has now moved to a new plane. Earlier this month the papers were full of rich lists. First there was the Asian 200 in *Eastern Eye*, a weekly newspaper, which was splashed over every national newspaper. A few days later we had the annual *Sunday Times* Rich List, now in its eleventh year and bigger than ever, with 1,000 names. On the same Sunday *The Observer* entered the fray for the first time with its list of the 100 young rich, from aristocrats to Internet millionaires.

As the compiler of two of the above lists (*Eastern Eye* and *Sunday Times*) I am amazed at the British public's continued fascination with the rich. Not only does my e-mail bulge with messages after each list, but letters pour in from around the world with suggestions for new names and queries on published "victims".

The Sunday Times recorded a sale of 1.512 million on Rich List Sunday, April 11, one of the highest circulations in modern times, and certainly the best yet achieved by such an issue. *The Observer* recorded a 20,000 increase in sales that Sunday on the previous week, while at *Eastern Eye* the issue sold out: its publisher, Sarwar Ahmed (who went on 40 TV and radio stations to talk about the Asian 200) reckoned that the publicity to the paper was worth perhaps £300,000 to £400,000.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

BRITAIN'S RICHEST 1,000

Circulation of the 1999 Rich List topped 1.5m

But list journalism is not without its critics. There is the privacy issue raised both by rival newspaper columnists and many on the list itself. Yet much of the information is drawn from public sources (papers, magazines, Companies House and a host of reference books). Where information is not in the public domain, it has been freely volunteered by around 200 (and growing) of the 1,000 people in the *Sunday Times* list.

So keen are some people to demonstrate their asset wealth that I have to curb their enthusiasm. A sense of responsibility forbids me giving details of the couple who sent me photocopied statements of their "his and her" building society account — each containing more than £1 million. I also never give any hints as to where the rich live, although such information is available on many databases, and newspaper property pages often give precise locations as to where a tycoon has purchased a multimillion-pound property.

Critics also carp that we never get it right and that most of those listed are far richer than we state. The latter is almost certainly true. In my experience many of the super-rich have far more private assets than we can see in the public domain. More and more are volunteering details of these assets. Constant refining and improved research helps me to get better each year. Last year, for example, we put the assets of a leisure magnate at £55 million. Two months after the 1998 list came out he sold those interests — for £55 million.

But howlers do slip through. Friends and critics will never let me forget the presence of Robert Maxwell in early lists. My only defence was that I was in good company in those days, with most of the City also marking Maxwell as a near-billionaire.

In recent lists most of the problems stem from newspaper cuttings and other sources that may contain errors. This year *The Sunday Times* put a director of a mobile phone company on the list. The information was drawn from a normally reliable and expensive reference work, which put his stake at more than two million shares. Alas, it is a tenth of that.

The lists can also unwittingly enter family minefields. The wrong person listed as head of the family can provoke a furious response — from both sides.

My favourite story about this year's list concerns a Welsh magnate estimated to be worth £40 million. My spy reports that it was the talk of his factory and town that he had appeared in the list. He was heard muttering "about right" on the figure, and gave his staff a small bonus.

More seriously, the notion of listing the profitability and wealth of many family-run businesses around the country does, I believe, make for a healthier Britain. Twenty years ago such information was deemed almost a state secret by local magnates. Now his or her staff who buy or hear about the *Sunday Times* Rich List know exactly how the "gaffer" is doing. It encourages more "gaffers" to greater openness with their staff and perhaps breaks down the old "them and us" culture. Encouraging, too, is the notion that in places such as that Welsh plant the staff took pride in what they had helped to achieve.

Certainly the "them and us" culture is rarely found in the Asian community or among the young entrepreneurs featured in *The Observer*. Indeed, Internet and software millionaires take an "American" attitude to wealth: proud to have made it through their own skill. And one candidate for the Asian list was keen for me to see his tax returns for the past five years, such was his enthusiasm to be listed. My life would be much easier if all 1,000 on the *Sunday Times* list felt the same.

The real life of Brian

Andrew Cameron, a former Express Newspapers chief, on Brian Hitchen's brush with death




DAVID WILLIS

Twenty years later after his heart bypass, Hitchen is still going strong and smoking enormous cigars with relish

Brian Hitchen, who succeeded Eve Pollard as the Editor of the *Sunday Express*, took pride in being to the right of Genghis Khan on a number of issues. The scourge of yobs and scroungers, a dedicated Tory and a champion of capital punishment — he was "hang and flog 'em Brian".

Short, bald with a broad shiny face and a winning smile, Brian was a great newshound. He had been around Fleet Street for many years, including a stint as Editor of the *Daily Star*, from which he was plucked in 1994 to become Editor of the *Sunday Express*.

The morale of the *Sunday Express* staff was at an all-time low. They had been pounded and denigrated. They needed a strong leader to restore their confidence, and Brian set about this task with gusto. Very soon morale was high and the paper moving in a positive direction.

Earlier in his career, as the *Daily Mirror* foreign correspondent, he had covered the world's hotspots, including the Vietnam War, and saw much pain and misery. He had also suffered some pain and misery himself. In his early forties, after feeling unwell, he was whisked into hospital to have a quadruple heart bypass. Twenty years later he is still going strong, smoking enormous cigars with relish and downing whiskies of a true Irish measure.

He was a fine friend, loyal and honourable, and I loved him dearly. He supported his staff through thick and thin. On one occasion, after a photographer was dismissed, I found out that Brian had continued to commission him and made sure he was properly paid. Brian found it difficult to see a dark side in any journalist.

His views on managers and proprietors were less generous. He viewed them with suspicion, believing they too often exuded incompetence or self-interest. He particularly disliked Lord Ampthill, the deputy chairman of United Newspapers, which owned Express Newspapers, an antipathy compounded in 1995 after he became convinced that Ampthill was the source of his undoing as Editor of the *Sunday Express*.

As Geoffrey Russell, Ampthill had been at the centre of the "Russell baby case", in which the third Lord Ampthill claimed that Geoffrey was not his son as the marriage had not been consummated. Geoffrey's mother, Christabel, gave evidence that she had not had sex with any other man and that conception had been as a result of incomplete intercourse. The court ruled in her favour.

In Brian's last years at Express Newspapers, he suffered by association with Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods. He and Al Fayed used to chew the fat, and at one of these meetings Al Fayed said he had details of corruption among senior government members and felt John Major should know. This was the first hint of the sleaze scandal that was to plague Major.

After returning to the office, Brian related the conversation to me and Lord Stevens of Ludgate, the chairman of United Newspapers. Brian then telephoned Downing Street and was granted an interview that evening with Major and his press secretary.

Then the duplicity from all sides started. "Leaks" about "go-betweens" intervening on behalf of Al Fayed were published, with speculation that Hitchen was the man. Brian was never a "go-between". He believed he was protecting the Prime Minister.

The next day Brian came to see me. A £200 fob watch had arrived as a gift of friendship from Al Fayed. Brian passed the watch into my care. He was horrified at the way he had been compromised by a man who claimed friendship.

In 1995 it was decided that the *Daily Express* needed a change of Editor. When circulation doesn't go well, the fall guy is always the Editor. Two of the applicants seemed outstanding: Richard Addis and Susan Douglas. It was at this point that Ampthill, who had thought it was time for a change, decided that, as Brian was within a year of retirement, we should revitalise both the *Daily* and *Sunday Express* by appointing two young Editors.

I insisted on telling Brian. His reaction was predictable and gentlemanly, though he was not enthusiastic about the choice of his successor. In fact Susan Douglas did not last long as *Sunday Express* Editor, and Richard Addis, *Daily Express* Editor for only a year more, ended up editing both newspapers.

NEXT WEEK Heads roll as "Killer" Stevens arrives in Fleet Street

Editor clashed with old guard

Robin Morgan was 'too young' for top job at Sunday Express

Following the departure of Robin Esser from the *Sunday Express* and his replacement by Robin Morgan, John Junor did not hang around for long. Morgan proved to be an editor too far for Junor, who was upset by his unflattering references to the Junor decades.

Junor, having extracted as much money as he could from the Express Group, promptly did a deal with his, and *The Express*'s, arch enemy, Lord Rothermere. Junor eagerly took the good Lord's shilling (in his case, closer to £100,000 for one JJ column a week).

The Mail on Sunday was justifiably cock-a-hoop at the Junor coup but its joy would have been even greater had it known more about the man who was now guiding the *Sunday Express*. Robin Morgan was a mistake. His youthful exuberance and lack of experience were frightening. I remember him telling me one day that he was going to eliminate "crossheads" which he felt were "old-fashioned". If he had been allowed to do this the paper would have been filled with great slabs of unreadable type.

While Junor seems to have considered himself God's gift to women, Morgan could not resist mock-approaches to the opposite sex. "Want to go out with a big boy?" was his tongue-in-cheek bravado, the grin on his face magnified by his Hank Marvin spectacles.

The biggest mystery of his editorship occurred in the early hours of August 20, 1989 — the night the *Marchioness*, a pleasure boat on a disco fun trip up the Thames, was run down by the bulk carrier *Bowbelle*.

Morgan: out of contact

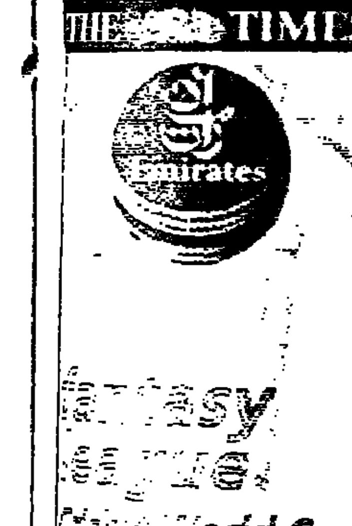
The disaster occurred at 1.50am on a Sunday, and the boat went down within sight of the Express offices, between Blackfriars and Southwark bridges. It was long after the first edition deadlines for all the Sunday newspapers but the *Sunday Express* was virtually on the spot and ideally placed to deliver the first and best coverage of one of the biggest news stories of the year.

Robin Morgan, after a long day, had left the office but could not be contacted. He had apparently left a number, but when the newsdesk telephoned it, there was no reply. The man who had been Editor of the *Sunday Express* for only a few short weeks could not be found.

So it was left to his deputy, Charles Garside, who happened to live near by, to take over — and a splendid job he made of it.

Garside commandeered and designed new pages, organised journalists, ordered extra copies to be printed and produced a paper which suffered not at all by its staff not being able to contact its Editor.

As for Garside, he was ignored when the time came to replace Morgan. He went on to run *The European*.



هكذا من الأصل





Enter a team by 10am on May 14 and you could win one of 50 pairs of tickets to World Cup 99 matches and an EA Sports Cricket World cup game for PC

Enter our new Fantasy League Cricket World Cup *competition, in association with Emirates, for the* chance to win a one-week VIP trip for two to all five days of the South Africa v England first Test at Johannesburg, November 25-29. Plus there are £38,000 of Emirates flights to be won. Simply select a team comprising four batsmen, four bowlers, two all-rounders and one *wicketkeeper from the list, right. You can only* choose up to two players from any one national team. You can enter by phone or post. Full terms and conditions have appeared in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* and are available on request



THE PRIZES

- ☐ **First prize: a VIP trip for two to South Africa to see the Johannesburg test *and £10,000 Of Emirates air tickets***
- ☐ **Second prize: £5,000 Emirates air tickets**
- ☐ ***Third prize: £2,000 Emirates air tickets***
- ☐ **Winner of group matches stage: two Emirates business class tickets to Nairobi or Johannesburg**
- ☐ **Winner of Super Six stage: two Emirates business class tickets to Bangkok or Kuala Lumpur**
- ☐ **Winner of the semi-finals and final stage: two Emirates business class tickets to Melbourne or Hong Kong**

THE TIMES FANTASY LEAGUE CRICKET WORLD CUP ENTRY FORM

Complete this form and post it to: *The Times* Fantasy League Cricket World Cup, Abacus House, Dudley St, Luton LU1 1ZZ. UK and RoI readers must enclose a cheque for £2.50 Sterling (£10 ex UK & RoI), payable to Times Newspapers Ltd, or give their credit/debit card details. To qualify for the start of the Cricket World Cup entries must be *received* by first post Thursday May 13, 1999

Title .... *Initials* .... *Surname* .... Address ....
BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

....

.... Postcode .... Day Tel ....

TEAM NAME (*No more than 16 characters*)

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

LUCKY DIP If you wish to have your team selected by us at random, tick box ☐

A MAXIMUM OF TWO PLAYERS FROM ANY ONE COUNTRY ALLOWED

CODE	PLAYER'S NAME	CODE	PLAYER'S NAME
BATSMEN (Select 4)		BOWLERS (Select 4)	
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ALL-ROUNDERS (Select 2)		WICKETKEEPER (Select 1 only)	
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Credit Card Payment Card number:

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Expiry date ☐☐ ☐☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐

Name on card ....

Supply address of registered cardholder on a separate sheet of paper if different from that above

Signature ....

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by The Times, please tick ☐

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Hong Kong ....

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1. On which days do you usually buy The Times? ☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Don't usually buy The Times
2. Which other National Daily Newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?
3. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy/read always (3-4 copies per month)?
4. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?

HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM

Select a team of 11 players – four batsmen, four bowlers, two all-rounders and a wicketkeeper. *A maximum of two players from any one country are allowed in your team at any time (see transfers* below). **TO ENTER BY PHONE** call our 24-hour hotline **0640 67 88 96 (+44 870 901 4210** ex UK) *and follow the instructions. 0640 calls cost 60p a minute, last about six minutes and must be made on* a touch-tone DTFM phone. Give the name of your team (max 16 characters) and the three-digit codes *of your 11 players. You will receive a PIN number so you can make transfers and check your scores.* To qualify for the start of the tournament telephone entries must be made by 10am on Friday May 14. **TO ENTER BY POST** *complete the entry form, left, and include a* £2.50 sterling entry fee (£10 ex UK & RoI). *To qualify for the start of the Cricket World Cup* postal entries must arrive by Thursday May 13. *All entrants will receive a confirmation letter by post,* showing their team and PIN number, 7-10 days after their entry is received. You cannot make transfers until you receive your PIN

HOW YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM WILL SCORE POINTS

SCORING SYSTEM Every player in your team is awarded or *deducted points for runs scored, wickets taken, catches and* stumpings, as follows:

BATTING

Every 10 runs in an innings .... 1 pt
Every 50 runs in an innings .... 3 bonus pts
(eg A score of 50 will be awarded 5 points plus 3 bonus points: a total of 8 points)
Every player out for less than 5 runs (excl bowlers) .... -1 pt
Every player out for 0 runs (excl bowlers) .... -2 pts

BOWLING

For every wicket taken .... 2 pts

There are also bonus points awarded or lost according to Economy Rate (runs conceded per over ratio)

Bowlers can score bonus points for low economy rates and lose them for high ones. The economy rate is an indication of how good a bowler is at not letting batsmen score runs against him. So, by taking *the number of runs scored by the opposition* during a bowler's match overs and dividing them by the number of overs bowled, an economy rate is established. A low economy rate will gain you points while a high one will lose you points. A bowler must bowl a minimum of five overs to qualify.

Bowler with an economy rate of 3.00 runs or under .... 5 pts
Bowler with an economy rate of 3.01 runs to 4.00 runs .... 2 pts
Bowler with an economy rate of 4.01 runs to 5.00 runs .... 0 pts
Bowler with an economy rate of 5.01 runs to 6.00 runs .... -1 pt
Bowler with an economy rate of 6.01 runs or above .... -2 pts
(e.g. A bowler taking 4 for 30 in 10 overs, an economy rate of 3.00 *runs per over*, will be awarded 8 points plus 5 bonus points a total of 13 points)

FIELDING

For every catch .... 1 pt For each stumping .... 2 pts

HOW TO MAKE TRANSFERS

Managers can make transfers to strengthen their teams. From now until the start of the tournament at 10am on May 14, you can make as many changes to your team as you like by calling the 24-hour transfer line on **0640 62 51 25 (+44 870 901 4296** ex UK) with your PIN to hand. Follow the instructions on the line. Your transfers must result in a new team in the correct format. From the start of the tournament until the start of the Super Six stage at 10am on June 4 you can make a further six team changes. After this you cannot make any further changes to your team. Changes made by 10am on any particular day will become active for matches from that day onwards. If changes are made after 10am then they will *become active from the following day's matches*



All information provided by Fantasy League Ltd ®

CHOOSE YOUR TEAM FROM THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS

Columns show: code, player name, country, one day internationals, runs and wickets up to April 22

Code	Player	Country	ODIs	Runs	Wickets
BATSMEN					
101	Mark Waugh	AUS	161	6261	81
102	Michael Bevan	AUS	104	3484	31
103	Ricky Ponting	AUS	73	2566	1
104	Darren Lehmann	AUS	45	1311	8
105	Damien Martyn	AUS	33	629	1
106	Akram Khan	BAN	26	618	0
107	Shahriar Hossain	BAN	10	214	0
108	Mehrab Hossain	BAN	5	207	0
109	Faruk Ahmed	BAN	5	89	0
110	Graeme Hick	ENG	91	3112	21
111	Neil Fairbrother	ENG	70	2035	0
112	Graham Thorpe	ENG	48	1661	2
113	Nick Knight	ENG	44	1619	0
114	Nasser Hussain	ENG	28	550	0
115	Mohammad Azharuddin	IND	315	8949	12
116	Sachin Tendulkar	IND	211	7801	78
117	Ajay Jadeja	IND	164	4361	19
118	Sourav Ganguly	IND	99	3509	32
119	Rahul Dravid	IND	80	2367	1
120	Amay Khurasiya	IND	4	71	0
121	Sadagopan Ramesh	IND	7	189	0
122	Steve Tikolo	KEN	25	688	17
123	Hitesh Modi	KEN	25	533	0
124	Deepak Chudasama	KEN	19	432	0
125	Alpesh Vader	KEN	11	102	0
126	Ravindu Shah	KEN	8	279	0
127	Sandip Gupta	KEN	7	119	0
128	Stephen Fleming	NZL	100	2848	1
129	Craig McMillan	NZL	39	911	16
130	Roger Twose	NZL	36	969	4
131	Matthew Horne	NZL	36	641	0
132	Salim Malik	PAK	279	7150	89
133	Ijaz Ahmed	PAK	226	5988	5
134	Inzamam-Ul-Haq	PAK	182	5867	2
135	Saeed Anwar	PAK	170	5172	5
136	Yousuf Youhana	PAK	20	576	0
137	Wajahatullah Wasti	PAK	3	86	3
138	Jonty Rhodes	SAF	151	3572	0
139	Daryll Cullinan	SAF	113	3414	5
140	Gary Kirsten	SAF	103	3815	0
141	Herschelle Gibbs	SAF	27	606	0
142	Dale Benkenstein	SAF	10	194	0
143	George Salmond	SCO	9	253	0
144	Ian Philip	SCO	9	205	0
145	Mike Smith	SCO	8	161	0
146	Bruce Patterson	SCO	0	0	0
147	Arjuna Ranatunga	SRI	263	7295	79
148	Aravinda De Silva	SRI	253	7965	83
149	Roshan Mahanama	SRI	208	5026	0
150	Hashan Tillakaratne	SRI	180	3439	6
151	Marvin Atapattu	SRI	68	2022	0
152	Mahela Jayawardene	SRI	19	480	1
153	Brian Lara	WIN	141	5629	2
154	Keith Arthurton	WIN	104	1898	42
155	Jimmy Adams	WIN	81	1307	22
156	Shivnarine Chanderpaul	WIN	66	2018	12
157	Stuart Williams	WIN	53	1570	1
158	Sherwin Campbell	WIN	45	1153	0
159	Alistair Campbell	ZIM	97	2483	8
160	Murray Goodwin	ZIM	31	846	3
161	Stuart Carlisle	ZIM	12	208	0
WICKETKEEPERS					
201	Adam Gilchrist	AUS	58	1861	0
202	Khaled Mashud	BAN	20	155	0
203	Jahangir Alam	BAN	3	4	0
204	Alec Stewart	ENG	120	3253	0
205	Nayan Mongia	IND	132	1222	0
206	Kennedy Otieno	KEN	25	745	0
207	Adam Parore	NZL	114	2670	0
208	Moin Khan	PAK	129	1895	0
209	Mark Boucher	SAF	30	198	0
210	Alec Davies	SCO	8	74	0
211	Ramesh Kaluwitharana	SRI	112	1930	0
212	Ridley Jacobs	WIN	23	233	0
213	Andy Flower	ZIM	105	3197	0
ALL-ROUNDERS					
301	Steve Waugh	AUS	256	5841	167
302	Tom Moody	AUS	63	1071	38
303	Shane Lee	AUS	23	286	21
304	Aminul Islam	BAN	26	566	5
305	Khaled Mahmud	BAN	11	188	11
306	Naimur Rahman	BAN	11	167	5
307	Neeyamur Rashid	BAN	1	4	1
308	Adam Hollioake	ENG	32	600	31
309	Mark Ealham	ENG	34	441	36
310	Vince Wells	ENG	9	141	8
311	Ian Austin	ENG	7	34	3
312	Andrew Flintoff	ENG	4	85	5
313	Robin Singh	IND	80	1338	46
314	Maurice Odumbe	KEN	25	593	19
315	Thomas Odoyo	KEN	24	275	20
316	Tony Suji	KEN	13	143	5
317	Jimmy Kamande	KEN	0	0	0
318	Chris Harris	NZL	127	2316	121
319	Chris Cairns	NZL	101	2340	93
320	Nathan Astle	NZL	82	2768	54
321	Wasim Akram	PAK	265	2676	371
322	Shahid Afridi	PAK	82	1912	53
323	Azhar Mahmood	PAK	60	606	53
324	Hansie Cronje	SAF	159	4825	101
325	Shaun Pollock	SAF	70	1005	103
326	Jacques Kallis	SAF	65	2127	44
327	Lance Klusener	SAF	53	1307	73
328	Derek Crookes	SAF	24	243	15
329	Greg Williamson	SCO	9	171	10
330	Mike Allingham	SCO	5	71	7
331	Iain Stanger	SCO	0	0	0
332	Gavin Hamilton	SCO	0	0	0
333	Sanath Jayasuriya	SRI	178	4672	152
334	Upul Chandana	SRI	50	539	47
335	Chandika Hathurusinghe	SRI	35	669	14
337	Phil Simmons	WIN	138	3652	78
338	Henderson Bryan	WIN	6	12	5
344	Ricardo Powell*	WIN	0	0	0
339	Grant Flower	ZIM	92	3080	41
340	Paul Strang	ZIM	72	955	79
341	Guy Whittall	ZIM	72	1509	49
342	Neil Johnson	ZIM	14	500	9
343	Dirk Viljoen	ZIM	12	148	6
BOWLERS					
401	Shane Warne	AUS	115	596	182
402	Glenn McGrath	AUS	86	49	122
403	Paul Reiffel	AUS	86	502	99
404	Damien Fleming	AUS	51	32	82
405	Adam Dale	AUS	24	56	27
406	Brendon Julian	AUS	23	215	22
407	Hasibul Hussain	BAN	20	122	22
408	Mohammad Rafique	BAN	16	237	15
409	Enamul Hoque	BAN	16	91	7
410	Shafiuddin Ahmed	BAN	8	27	10
411	Manzurul Islam	BAN	1	1	1
412	Darren Gough	ENG	60	300	97
413	Robert Croft	ENG	42	287	40
414	Angus Fraser	ENG	39	123	46
415	Alan Mullally	ENG	24	45	28
416	Anil Kumble	IND	167	531	224
417	Javagal Srinath	IND	161	678	220
418	Venkatesh Prasad	IND	111	143	134
419	Ajit Agarkar	IND	36	215	68
420	Debashish Mohanty	IND	20	9	20
421	Nikhil Chopra	IND	14	97	10
422	Asif Karim	KEN	25	167	23
423	Martin Suji	KEN	23	48	17
424	Mohammed Sheikh	KEN	15	35	17
425	Joseph Angara	KEN	4	6	2
426	Gavin Larsen	NZL	113	599	107
427	Dion Nash	NZL	58	435	47
428	Simon Doull	NZL	40	172	34
429	Daniel Vettori	NZL	38	188	27
430	Geoff Allott	NZL	13	14	23
431	Matthew Hart	NZL	11	49	13
432	Carl Bulfin	NZL	3	9	0
433	Waqar Younis	PAK	172	537	283
434	Mushtaq Ahmed	PAK	130	343	144
435	Saqlain Mushtaq	PAK	98	469	187
436	Abdul Razzaq	PAK	14	105	14
437	Shoaib Akhtar	PAK	16	52	27
438	Allan Donald	SAF	112	73	190
439	Nicky Boje	SAF	18	74	17
440	Steve Elworthy	SAF	15	15	20
464	Alan Dawson**	SAF	1	0	1
442	Keith Sheridan	SCO	8	9	12
443	John Blain	SCO	4	13	7
444	James Brinkley	SCO	0	0	0
445	Asim Butt	SCO	0	0	0
446	Nick Dyer	SCO	0	0	0
447	Peter Steindl	SCO	0	0	0
448	Muttiah Muralitharan	SRI	110	151	151
449	Pram'ya Wickramasinghe	SRI	110	236	87
450	Chaminda Vaas	SRI	107	506	135
451	Ruwan Kalpage	SRI	85	831	73
452	Eric Upashantha	SRI	4	13	4
453	Courtney Walsh	WIN	188	295	206
454	Curtly Ambrose	WIN	161	615	213
455	Mervyn Dillon	WIN	16	21	24
456	Reon King	WIN	12	38	16
457	Nehemiah Perry	WIN	5	24	5
458	Heath Streak	ZIM	73	809	89
459	Eddo Brandes	ZIM	56	363	69
460	Andrew Whittall	ZIM	44	140	38
461	Adam Huckle	ZIM	16	8	6
462	Mpumelelo Mbangwa	ZIM	15	24	8
463	Henry Olonga	ZIM	7	8	8

*Replaces 336 Carl Hooper **Replaces 441 Makhaya Ntini

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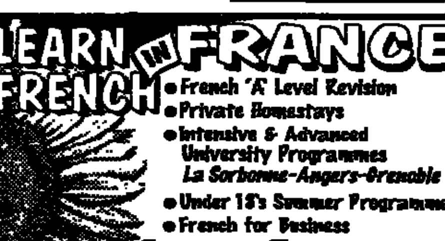
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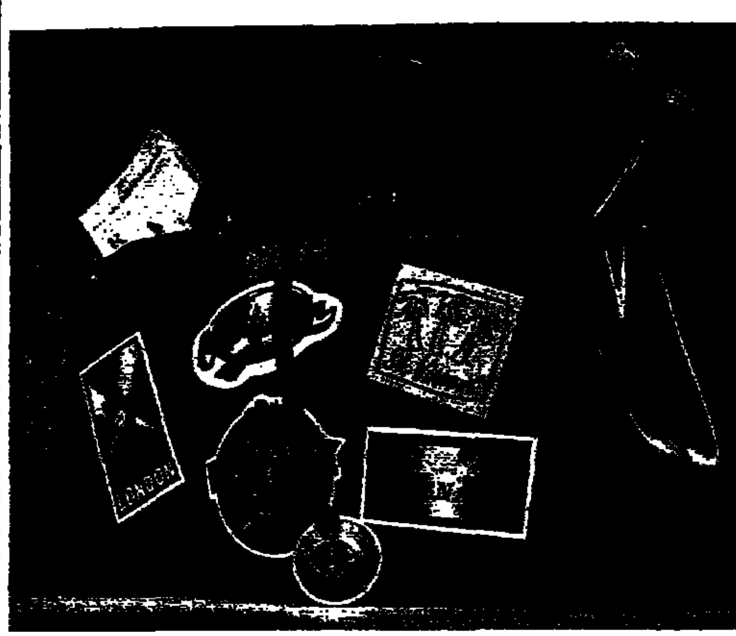
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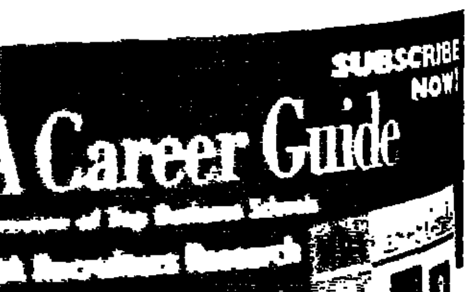
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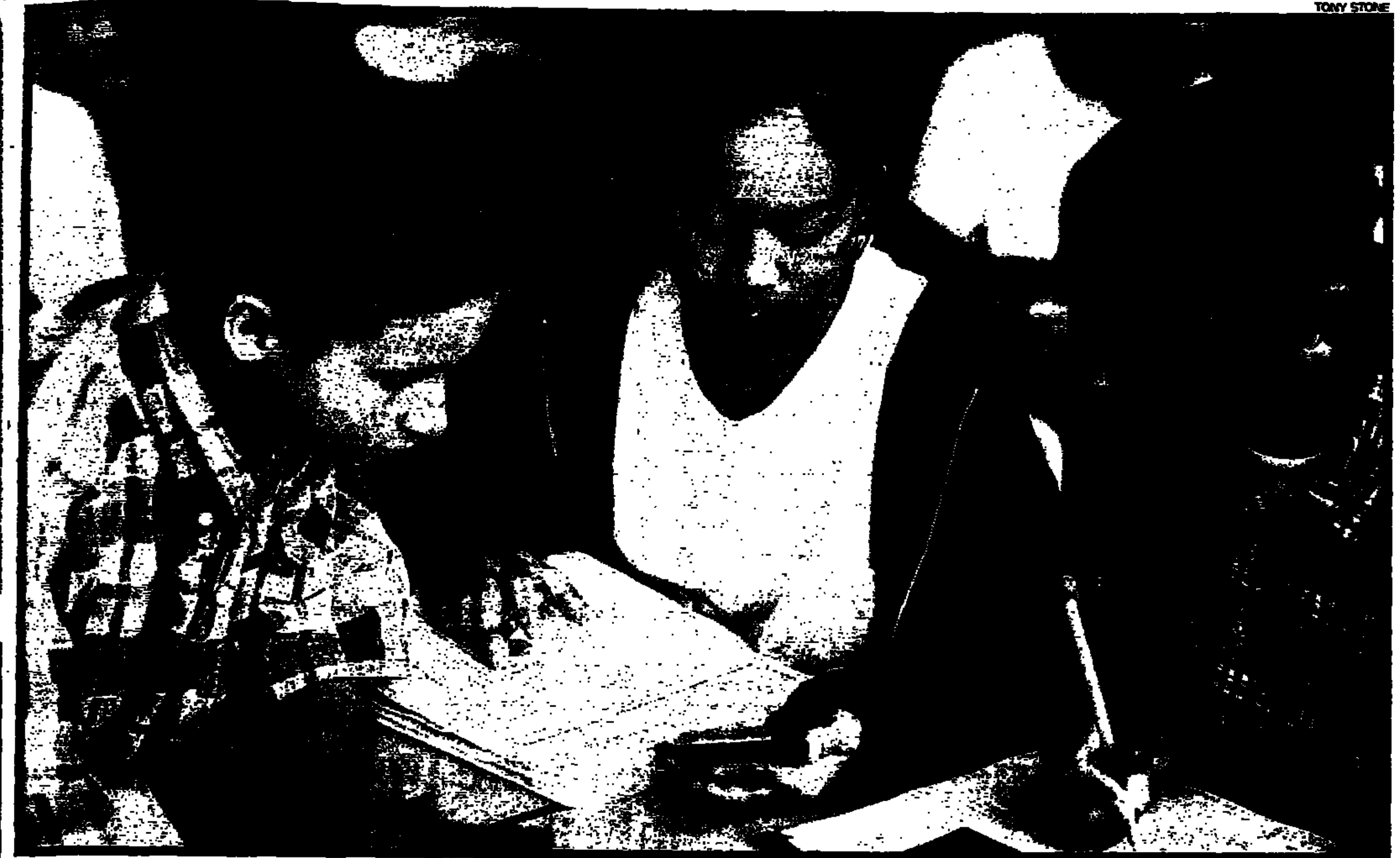
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THE TIMES EDUCATION









TONY STONE

More than 200,000 children from New York aged between eight and 13 will go to summer school this year in an attempt to raise their grades

Summer school at work

Pupils in the United States who fail basic tests are catching up with compulsory holiday classes. Sue Ellicott reports

If you are a New York *child likely to flunk your* end-of-year reading and mathematics tests in a state school, don't bother making big summer plans. You won't be having a holiday because your school district *has other ideas:* six weeks of summer school.

After years of letting children move up a class even when they have failed to master the basics of the one they are leaving, American educators are getting tough. There have been too many jokes about 16-year-olds with high-school diplomas unable to fill out a work application form *for McDonald's. The problem* was that the stories were true.

"We were like *Lake Wobegon* — we couldn't fail anyone," says Jamie Horwitz, a spokesman for the American Federation of Teachers, referring to Garrison Keillor's description of the children in his satirical Minnesotan town as all above average.

Not any more. New York *grabbed headlines recently* after Rudy Crew, its schools' chancellor, announced plans to have more than 200,000 children between the ages of eight and 13 in summer school this year. Because the city has the *highest number of school* students in America everyone noticed, although Mr Crew was following a trend set by Chicago three years ago.

For years, *Chicago schools* were ridiculed as the country's worst. Reading and maths scores were among the lowest. Yet, as in many American cities, any action to make improvements was impeded by feuding between state and local politicians. Eventually, mainly out of spite, the Repub*lican-led Illinois state* legislature handed Chicago's schools to its Mayor, a Democrat. He immediately set to work — bringing in a tough-minded former businessman to overhaul the entire system.

Within weeks, he announced that children unable to meet new reading standards in their second year of primary school would have to at*tend obligatory summer* classes. If they improved, they would move up; if not, they would stay down. That year, 1997, half the primary school students had to go back in summer.

> It was a shock for the school system but it worked

Mr Horwitz says: "It was shock therapy for the *school system.*" But it worked. After six weeks of intense study, many of the children made the grade. And Chicago has not looked back. Last year more than half the 26,000 children who went through its summer schools improved their reading scores *enough to move up.*

According to figures from Chicago's Board of Education, which oversees the city's 430,000 schoolchildren, *12-year-olds improved their* reading ability by seven months on average, while some teenagers improved by a year. Students showed compa*rable improvements in maths,* too. Publicly, teachers have long vilified the practice of moving low achievers up. Privately, however, some are re*lieved to bid farewell* to a child who drained time and energy.

Taking his cue from Chicago, Ruben Zacarias, the head of the Los Angeles school system, has said that he needs to spend $140 million (about *£88 million) this year on* intervention programmes for at least 150,000 struggling primary pupils, about 40 per cent of the young classes. His plans include summer school, Saturday lessons and after-school tutoring.

About a billion *dollars are needed* this year to do the job properly. The money, of course, is a big deal. Teachers want to participate in the summer schools only as volunteers and, in New York, they are seeking a pay rise above $32 an hour to do so.

Then there is the problem of *volatile parents. People* are sensitive about falling standards in inner-city schools. In a culture built on visible achievement and self-esteem, repeat*ing a year is a social* stigma and can meet resistance.

Last year, in Compton, a poor district of Los Angeles, parents led a protest and sued *the school district for introduc*ing summer schools and refusing to move up children deemed unready. Eventually, most were persuaded that the *summer* programme was a benefit, especially when they saw how motivated their children were to learn. It also helps that the summer school classes are smaller than those during the rest of the year, so *the parents are confident that* their children will get special attention.

British concerns about falling educational standards could make the summer school idea worth considering. The schools are catching on rapidly as studies show America falling further behind other industrialised countries in reading and maths and sci*ence skills.*

Unlike European countries, the US has no national *standardised* tests. Each school district sets its own rules so that even reading tests vary within each state. And American children start *their formal schooling later* than the British. Few cities offer anything that resembles a government-funded nursery or kindergarten system and usually children do not start school until they are six — so they are on average behind British children in literacy and numeracy.

America's large immigrant population means that some children are floundering because they *lack adequate* English skills.

But if summer schools are welcome, there is the tricky issue of who pays for it. Mr Crew doesn't yet have the money to send more than 200,000 *children to summer school* this year, although parents have been warned that their children might be in remedial classes if they have failed this month's reading tests. The city of New York's schools are funded by the state of New York and Mr Crew's budget does not cover the summer.

"He'll pull it out of somewhere," says Ana Marengo, of *the United Federation of* Teachers. "It's just unclear from where."

Edpage@the-times.co.uk

The curriculum: if it ain't broke, why fix it?

Ministers cannot disclose their plans *for a revised national curriculum* until the middle of next month because of the block on potentially contentious government announcements during campaigning for the local elections. But markers are already being *put down for the next re*vision.

Campaigners for radical change in state schools have written off the current exercise. David Blunkett opted, probably rightly, for a steady-as-we-go approach this time as the best hope of hitting the Government's education targets. The last thing schools want, after a decade and more of upheaval, is another set of subject guidelines.

By 2004, however, there may be more appetite for reform. Indeed, the moment could come sooner than that because the current review will not follow the pattern of the last two and guarantee five years of stability.

For the past few months, the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA), has been organising a series of debates on whether the current style of curriculum will need to alter for the 21st century. The programme will culminate next month with a question session in London and a subsequent lecture by Valerie Bayliss, the project director and former senior civil servant.

John O'Leary

A report published ahead of the final debate sets out the basic argument for reform: that our education structures — not just the national curriculum — belong to the 19th century and *will not work in a knowledge*-based economy in which young people will require technological skills and great flexibility. Technology, it is said, will have to be integrated into the curric*ulum, rather than added on, but the driving* force will be the controversial concept of a "competence-driven" curriculum.

The language will set off alarm bells immediately among traditionalists, who will see the spectre of soft options replacing the discipline of "real subjects", utilitarianism driv*ing out civilising knowledge. Ten years of* fruitless discussion of "key skills" makes such a reaction understandable, but premature. The RSA team is not advocating the abolition of traditional subjects, but a moulding *of lessons to ensure that the skills sought by* employers have their grounding in schools.

At the nub of the debate is whether schools are already doing the job, or could be encouraged to do it more effectively without ripping up the curriculum. If it ain't broke, why fix it? Next month's revision should leave schools *with a little more scope to teach more imagi*natively, bringing out the analytical and teamworking skills that the RSA sees as essential for success in the modern world.

*The CBI and other employers' organisa*tions have identified the same needs without drawing such far-reaching conclusions. Andersen Consulting, the sponsors of the project, summed up the problem in a report *last year. "There is a gap between the skills* and attitudes that employers seek, and those many young people possess ... another between what those employers look for, and young people's perceptions of what is important ... and another between the skills and attributes young people have, and their ability to demonstrate that they have them."

Propositions for radical change in schooling generally centre on the largely fallacious argument that the pace of technological change and the rapid advance of knowledge make much of what is taught out of date almost before it is learnt. That may apply, in a limited way, to science, but Shakespeare's words remain the same and so does the basis of mathematics. If the principles of learning are transmitted successfully, young people should be able to adapt and add to their knowledge in adult life.

This, however, is where the RSA report takes issue with the current system. Literacy, numeracy and subject knowledge would still be at the heart of education, but there would be a switch of emphasis to ensure that pupils acquired key compe*tences at the same time.*

These would include how to learn, including the ability to make full use of information technology; managing informa*tion and time-management;* communication and teamworking; and a package of broader issues defined as citizenship.

*Distilled in such a way, the proposal looks banal, and good schools will claim to be ad*dressing the issues already in their own way. But the debate goes back to first principles, questioning the aims and objectives of school in the 21st century. Education should be more than a mere preparation for work, but it must serve that function effectively.

The RSA package is by no means the last word in modern schooling — its faith in the liberating force of technology, for example, has yet to be fully justified and there are unanswered questions about how the mastery of competences would be assessed. But the computer is bound to change the business of learning as the new century progresses and the skills that young people need will change with it.

It may be too soon to persuade teachers or politicians that our schooling is becoming *outdated. But the issues raised in Redefining the Curriculum* are certain to become much more familiar in the decade ahead.

Learning to chill out

Weekend courses can be relaxing, says David Thomas



ANDREW HASSON

It feels like a holiday weekend at the Old Rectory despite 12 hours' tuition

Fancy the chance to try your hand at something challenging and stimulating? Most residential courses are in boarding schools and university towns. But the Old Rectory set in West Sussex countryside in Fittleworth is an adult education college with a hint of Jane Austen or Anthony Trollope.

The building, part of which dates from *the 16th century, has been run* as a college since 1962 and for the past five years has been owned by Tony and Sue Dawkins, both former teachers. It is one of only two privately owned colleges in the Adult Res*idential Colleges Association, which mon*itors its 30 or so member colleges.

If it sounds too cosy for a learning environment, visit the art studio or a tutorial room and observe the concentration of *the students. I watched a mosaics* class where everyone was engrossed. The atmosphere was cheery but purposeful, and the end products — three mosaics in different styles, materials and designs — *were not only impressive but something* tangible to take home.

Students described the course work as "tiring but relaxing". As Mr Dawkins explained: "People come with different ex*pectations* and motivation. *We aim to* please those who see it as a holiday with a bit of art thrown in, as well as those who want a structured course."

There are morning, afternoon and evening lectures, and over the course of a weekend there are between 11 and 12 hours of tuition by specialists.

The mosaic course is one of 35 crafts and restoration subjects on offer, a favourite being the making of a traditional teddy bear. Painting and drawing is the most popular, and all abilities are catered for — the Painting for the Petrified weekend enabled one student to say that for the first time in her life she had actually enjoyed putting brush to canvas.

Other subjects are yoga, tai-chi, outdoor and natural history, literature, histo*ry, writing and* theatre, music and singing, a wine workshop, the Alexander technique, bridge for improvers and understanding the Universe.

The average class size is ten, and students range from 18 to 94, *although most* are in their forties. There is accommodation for 50. Each week and each weekend there are four courses. At the end of the day students socialise in the bar. Which brings us back to the ambience: two acres of garden, with a croquet lawn and heated swimming pool, a shop, coffee room, and clean, comfortable bedrooms.

This summer a single room with en suite facilities, hand basin, bath or shower costs £248 for a Monday to Friday course, and £149 for Friday to Sunday. This price is fully inclusive of tuition and full board; and surcharges for course materials are minimal.

● *The Old Rectory, Fittleworth, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1HU (tel/fax: 01798-865 306); Adult Residential Colleges Association, Box 31, Washbrook, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3HF.*

Law Report April 30 1999 House of Lords

No evidence to displace hedge and ditch presumption

Alan Wibberley Building Ltd v Insley

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Clyde

[Speeches April 29]

The "hedge and ditch presumption" was not displaced when land was conveyed by reference to an Ordnance Survey map which showed the boundary to be in the middle of the hedge, when the conveyancing history showed that the land had never been in common ownership, there was nothing to show that the ditch had been dug before the boundary was drawn and there was no doubt that the hedge and ditch presumption had for many years delineated the boundary.

The House of Lords so held in allowing an appeal by the defendant, John Graham Insley, from the decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Ward, Lord Justice Judge dissenting) (*The Times* November 24, 1997; [1998] 1 WLR 881) dismissing the defendant's appeal from a decision of Mr Recorder Alan Pardoe, QC, at Stoke on Trent County Court on November 30, 1995 by which he declared that the true line of the boundary between the defendant's field and that of his neighbour, the plaintiff, Alan Wibberley Building Ltd, was the middle of a hedge which the defendant had removed.

Mr Anthony Elleray, QC and Mr Ian Foster for Mr Insley; Mr Charles Machin for Wibberley.

LORD HOFFMANN said that the first resort in the event of a boundary dispute was to look at the deeds. Under the old system of unregistered conveyancing, that meant the chain of conveyances and other instruments, going back beyond the period of limitation, which demonstrated that the owner's title was in practical terms secure against adverse claims.

The same was true in the case of registered conveyancing where what was known as the "general boundaries" rule applied. That was now contained in rule 278 of the Land Registration Rules (SR & O 1925 No 1093 (L 28)).

The Land Registry used maps based upon the Ordnance Survey which were, of course, usually very accurate. For example, if one field was divided from another by a natural feature such as a hedge, the line on the Ordnance Survey map would indicate the middle line of the hedge.

But the effect of the general boundaries rule was that the owner of a field shown on the filed plan by reference to the Ordnance Survey map did not necessarily own it up to the middle line of the hedge. The precise boundary had, if the question arose, to be established by topographical and other evidence.

There were certain presumptions which assisted the inferences which might be drawn from the topographical features. Perhaps the best known was the one which was drawn from the existence along the boundary of a hedge and a ditch. In such a case, it was presumed that the boundary lay along the edge of the ditch on the far side from the hedge.

The basis of that presumption was explained in *Vowles v Miller* ((1810) 3 Taunt 137, 138): "No man, making a ditch, can cut into his neighbour's soil, but usually he cuts it to the very extremity of his own land: he is of course bound to throw the soil which he digs out, upon his own land; and often, if he likes it, he plants a hedge on top of it..."

It should be noticed that the rule involved two successive presumptions.

First, it was presumed that the ditch was dug after the boundary was drawn.

Second, it was then presumed that the ditch was dug and the hedge grown in the manner described.

If the first presumption was displaced by evidence which showed that the ditch was in existence before the boundary was drawn, for example, as an internal drainage ditch which was later used as a boundary when part of the land was sold, then there was obviously no room for the reasoning to operate.

The defendant, relying upon the hedge and ditch presumption, grubbed up the hedge along his section of the boundary and erected a post and wire fence along the far side of the ditch.

The plaintiff objected. It claimed that the true boundary ran along the middle of the hedge.

The burden was upon the plaintiff to show that it had a better title than the defendant. He was in possession and therefore needed to show no title at all.

Possession was in itself a good title against anyone who could not show a prior and therefore better right to possession: *Asher v Whitlock* ((1865) LR 1 QB 1).

The question was therefore whether the plaintiff had acquired a title to the strip. The land was unregistered and the question depended upon an examination of its deeds.

The title of the plaintiff's farm could be traced back to the seventeenth century. It had always been in separate ownership from the defendant's farm and there was nothing to show that the boundary had not always been in the same place.

There was also nothing to suggest that the ditch was there before the ancient boundary between the two farms had been drawn. So hedge and ditch gave rise to an inference, for the reasons stated in *Vowles v Miller* that the land of the plaintiff's predecessor in title was bounded by the near side of the ditch.

It was therefore clear that if the question was confined to whether the plaintiff had established a title to the strip on the basis of its own deeds, the claim should have failed.

But the judge and the majority in the Court of Appeal held that the plaintiff could succeed by praying in aid inferences drawn from the defendant's deeds.

Therefore, although the defendant was under no obligation to prove any title at all examination of his deeds was required.

If one had asked before the sale to the defendant's predecessor in title where the boundary between the two farms lay, the deeds would have told the same story as his neighbour's. In both cases exact boundary would have depended upon an inference from the hedge and ditch.

It was said, however, that upon its true construction, the 1975 conveyance to the defendant's predecessor in title, which referred to the Ordnance Survey map, gave the land only up to the midline of the hedge.

It was very doubtful whether that was correct. The language was confusing and was in itself fairly inconclusive as to whether the parties intended the boundary to be in the precise place which the Ordnance Survey map represented, namely, in the middle of the hedge.

When one looked at the background, that construction became very unlikely. If one examined the title of the vendor, as the parties must have done, it would have shown that by virtue of the hedge and ditch presumption he owned the land up to the far side of he ditch.

If, therefore, the 1975 conveyance drew the boundary along the middle line of the hedge, the vendor would have been retaining a useless strip between that line and the far side of the ditch. That was most unlikely to have been the intention.

The more likely inference, which the words "for the purposes of identification only" supported, was that the parties were using the Ordnance Survey plan in the same way as it was used in registered conveyancing, that was, to indicate the general boundaries.

That would have left the hedge and ditch presumption undisturbed, with the result that the 1975 conveyance included all the land up to the boundary of the plaintiff's farm on the far side of the ditch. The same land was in due course conveyed to the defendant.

In the Court of Appeal, however, it was conceded that the 1975 conveyance only conveyed the land up to the middle of the hedge. Therefore the choices facing the court were either that the vendor had (probably by a mistake) retained a useless strip or that it somehow belonged to the plaintiff.

The majority came to the latter conclusion.

That seemed highly improbable to his Lordship. It would mean that the vendor and the defendant's predecessor in title intended not merely to convey whatever land the vendor owned but that they had undertaken some inquiry to establish the precise boundary between the two farms.

Furthermore, they had ascertained that it lay in a place which no previous conveyance or topographical evidence would have suggested.

But there was no evidence that they were privy to some piece of information which would have displaced the hedge and ditch presumption as applied to the earlier conveyances, or what that information might have been.

Therefore, if one had to start with the artificial assumption that the 1975 conveyance included the land only up to the middle of the hedge, the most likely explanation was that the draftsman simply made a mistake. The inartistic manner in which the parcels had been drafted supported such a conclusion.

His Lordship repeated that it was for the plaintiff to establish its title to the strip.

The majority in the Court of Appeal had relied upon the case of *Fisher v Winch* ([1939] 1 KB 666): a case in which the ditch was there before the boundary was drawn.

So there was no room for the reasoning in *Vowles v Miller*.

Whoever dug the ditch could not have dug it along the boundary because there was no boundary at that point.

There was nothing in *Fisher* to displace the conclusion that, having chosen to describe the land by reference to an Ordnance Survey plan, it had been intended that the boundary be where that plan indicated, namely, along the middle of the hedge.

In the instant case, there was no doubt that there had been for many years a hedge and ditch on what had for centuries been the boundary between the two farms.

There was no evidence to displace the presumption that the boundary between the farms was drawn before the ditch was dug. So for all this time the presumption has determined the boundary.

And whereas in Fisher v Winch the question turned upon the title of the person who took under the conveyance by reference to the Ordinance Survey plan, here it turned upon the title of the owner on the other side of the boundary. Therefore the reasoning in *Fisher v Winch* could have no application.

Lord Hope delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Lloyd and Lord Clyde agreed.

Solicitors: Grindeys, Stoke on Trent; Challinors & Dickson, Stoke on Trent.

Power to arrest sister ship owned by slot charterer

MSC Meditarranean Shipping Co SA v Polish Ocean Lines (The Tychy)

Before Lord Justice Otton, Lord Justice Waller and Lord Justice Clarke

[Judgment March 31]

A slot charterer of spaces on a containership for the carriage of goods was capable of coming within the definition of a charterer in section 21(4)(b) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 despite the fact that a slot charter gave control of only part of the vessel to the charterer. Since more than one charterer at any one time could properly be described as the charterer of the ship, a slot charterer could be described as the charterer within section 21(4).

The Admiralty Court therefore had jurisdiction under section 20(1) and 20(2)(h) of the 1981 Act in relation to the arrest of a sister ship owned by the slot charterer arising out of an alleged breach of the slot charter agreement.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing the appeal of the defendant, Polish Ocean Lines, against the refusal by Mr Peter Gross, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Admiralty Court of the Queen's Bench Division, of the application of Polish Ocean to discharge the arrest of the MV Tychy, arrested by the plaintiff, MSC Mediterranean Shipping Co SA, on March 17.

On May 17, 1993 the parties made an agreement by which Mediterranean Shipping chartered container slots to Polish Ocean on vessels operating on Mediterranean Shipping's North Atlantic Service.

Polish Ocean ran into financial difficulties. Despite further agreements designed to reduce the number of slots allocated to Polish Ocean and adjust the payments, Polish Ocean fell into arrears.

On March 17, 1999 Mediterranean Shipping issued a writ claiming sums due and damages for breach of contract and arrested the Tychy, a vessel owned by Polish Ocean. On March 22 the judge refused the application of Polish Ocean, inter alia, to discharge the arrest.

Section 20 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 provides: "(1) The Admiralty jurisdiction of the High Court shall be ... (a) jurisdiction to hear and determine any of the proceedings mentioned in subsection (2)...

"(2) ... (h) any claim arising out of any agreement relating to the carriage of goods in a ship or to the use or hire of a ship..."

Section 21 of the 1981 Act provides: "(4) In the case of any such claim as is mentioned in section 20(2)(e) to (r), where - (a) the claim arises in connection with a ship; and (b) the person who would be liable on the claim in an action in personam ("the relevant person") was, when the cause of action arose, the owner or charterer of, or in possession or control of, the ship, an action in rem may ... be brought in the High Court against ... (ii) any other ship of which, at the time when the action is brought, the relevant person is the beneficial owner as respects all the shares in it."

Mr Timothy Young, QC and Mr Christopher Smith for Polish Ocean; Mr Dominick Kendrick, QC, for Mediterranean Shipping.

LORD JUSTICE CLARKE said that the question was whether Mediterranean Shipping could bring an action in rem against the Tychy. The five requirements in section 20(2) and 21(4) of the 1981 Act were conceded or assumed for the purposes of the application except one. The issue was whether Mediterranean Shipping could establish that Polish Ocean was the charterer of the ship.

Mr Young conceded that "charterer" in section 21(4) was not confined to a demise charterer. *The Span Terza* ([1982] 1 Lloyd's Rep 225), which was binding on the court, was authority for the proposition that "charterer" included a time charterer.

The purpose of the statutory provision was to ensure that before a ship was arrested in respect of a maritime claim the relevant person had some connection with the ship. In principle there was no reason why a time or voyage charterer should not be included.

There was no reason not to give section 21(4) its natural meaning. The protection for the defendant was in the last part of the section. A sister ship arrested had to be wholly beneficially owned by the person who would be liable on a claim in personam.

Mr Young submitted that the judge asked the wrong question. Section 21(4) did not refer to "an owner or charterer in possession or control" but "the owner or charterer". The plaintiff had to show that the person liable in personam was the charterer of the whole ship.

His Lordship saw the force of that submission as a matter of language.

The judge had rejected the distinction between time and voyage charterers, concluding that "charterer" within section 21(4) was capable of including both. His Lordship entirely agreed.

The next question was whether "charterer" included a part charterer. A charterer of part of a ship was well known, for example, in the chemical industry.

His Lordship agreed with the judge that once it was accepted that "charterer" included voyage charterer, there was no good reason to exclude such charterers.

Unless there was something in the five requirements in sections 20(2) and 21(4) to exclude the charterer, it made no sense to hold that if a charterer chartered a whole tanker a plaintiff could arrest a sister ship, whereas the ships of a charterer of half a tanker were immune from arrest. There was nothing in the Act or in principle to justify such a distinction.

What of a slot charterer? Such charters were now common.

There was no distinction in principle between a slot charterer and a voyage charterer of part of a ship. Both were in a sense charterers of space on a ship. A slot charter was simply an example of a voyage charter of part of a ship.

It followed that the conclusion that a voyage charterer was a charterer within section 21(4) led to the conclusion that a slot charterer was such a charterer.

Mr Kendrick submitted that the category of charterparty was not closed. It was subject to evolution as the market evolved.

As dry cargo ships became containerised, space was commonly hired by reference to twenty foot unit spaces by slot charterers. That was no different in principle to the charter of part of a ship by a bulk carrier.

His Lordship accepted that submission. A slot charter satisfied the characteristics of a charterparty described by Mr Justice Hobhouse in *The Torenia* ([1983] 2 Lloyd's Rep 210).

Could a slot charterer be described as the charterer? It was accepted that there could be more than one charterer of the ship who could properly be described as the charterer, for example, under a string of charters.

Each of the charterers under each charter was the charterer of the ship, just as a ship could have two registered owners. Both would be the owner within section 21(4). There was no difficulty in describing a charterer of part of the ship as the charterer.

On the facts Polish Ocean was the charterer of each relevant ship.

Mr Young submitted that Polish Ocean was no longer the charterer when the cause of action accrued because by the time payment was due under the agreement the containers had been delivered.

His Lordship rejected that submission. The charterparty was on foot so long as obligations under it still had to be performed. That included the obligation to pay. On any other view section 21(4) would be unworkable.

Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Waller agreed.

Solicitors: More Fisher Brown, Aldgate; Richards Butler, Fenchurch Street.

Trade name insufficient for labelling regulations

Hackney London Borough Council v Cedar Trading Ltd

Before Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Mitchell

[Judgment April 21]

The fact that a food carried a well known trademark or brand name did not render it exempt from the Food Labelling Regulations (SI 1996 No 1499).

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when allowing an appeal by way of case stated by Hackney London Borough Council against the dismissal by Mrs Jacqueline Comyns, Thames metropolitan stipendiary magistrate, on September 7, 1998 of 18 informations laid against Cedar Trading Ltd alleging that it had contravened regulation 44.

The company had sold three cans of Coca Cola and three cans of Sprite which were not marked or labelled in accordance with and contravened regulations 8, 12 and 38(1) in Part II of the 1996 Regulations which required, respectively, that the name used for a food be sufficiently precise to inform a purchaser of its true nature and to enable it to be distinguished from products with which it could be confused, that the list of ingredients be headed or preceded by an appropriate heading consisting of or including the word "ingredients", and that the particulars required by the 1996 Regulations be easy to understand and clearly legible.

Regulation 3 of the 1996 Regulations, as amended by the Food Labelling (Amendment) Regulations (SI 1998 No 1398), provides:

"(1) ... these regulations shall not apply in respect of ... (b) any food lawfully produced in another member state brought into Great Britain from a member state in which it was lawfully sold ... which is labelled with a name that is sufficiently precise to inform a purchaser of its true nature and to enable it to be distinguished from food with which it could be confused, the label being in a language easily understood by the purchaser."

Mr Simon Butler for the appellant; Cedar Trading did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that the cans of drink had been lawfully produced and sold in Holland and then brought into the United Kingdom.

The cans were labelled with the "Coca Cola" and "Sprite" trade mark or brand name, pictorial representations of a bottle of cola drink or lemon and lime fruits, descriptive names of the food written in Dutch and a list of ingredients also written and headed in Dutch. Although the cans had the familiar colours and brand names, most of the writing was in Dutch.

Assistance as to the meaning of a name under regulation 3(1) of the 1996 Regulations, as amended, was to be derived from regulation 9 of those Regulations, which provided that the name of a food might consist of a name or description or of a name and description and it might contain more than one word.

Regulation 10 provided that a trade mark, brand name or fancy name could not be substituted for the name of a food. It seemed clear that "Coca Cola" and "Sprite" were trade marks or brand names which could not be regarded for the purposes of regulation 3(1) of the 1996 Regulations as a name.

Consequently, the magistrate was bound to find that the respondent did not meet the requirements of the regulation 3(1) exemption because the cans were not labelled with a name sufficiently precise to inform a purchaser of their true nature and to enable them to be distinguished from food with which they could be confused, the label being in a language easily understood by the purchaser.

The question as to whether, for the purposes of regulation 3(1), a well known trade mark or brand name could confer exemption from any of the requirements of the 1996 Regulations would be answered in the negative.

The matter would not be remitted to the magistrate for re-hearing and no order would be made as the respondent company was thought to be in liquidation.

Mr Justice Mitchell agreed.

Solicitor: Mr Christopher Hind, Hackney.

Facts imply influence

Killick v Pountney and Another

Before Mr James Munby, QC

[Judgment March 31]

The inquisitorial function of the judge in a contentious probate action was to seek the truth as to the testator's true last testament notwithstanding the manoeuvres of the parties, including the silence of a defendant.

Mr James Munby, QC, sitting as a deputy Chancery Division judge, so held when pronouncing against the validity of the last will and testament dated October 11, 1989 of Norman Arthur Frederick Killick on the application of the plaintiff, Geoffery Dennis Killick, the nephew of the deceased, by reason of the undue influence of the first defendant, John Michael Pountney, the executor and a beneficiary of the estate of the deceased under the will of October 11, 1989. The second defendant, Mrs Nellie Pountney, was the mother of the first defendant and a beneficiary under the disputed will.

Mr Martin Russell for Mr Killick; the defendants did not appear and were not represented.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the court received no evidence from the first defendant, against whom the allegation of undue influence was explicitly directed.

Mr Russell relied on *Freeman v Cox* ((1878) 8 ChD 148), approved in *Porrett v White* ((1885) 31 ChD 52 but subsequently doubted in *Hollis v Burton* ([1892] 3 Ch 226, 239).

Inactivity of the type correctly attributed to the defendants in this action did not justify drawing adverse inferences of the kind advocated by Mr Russell.

A number of reasons why the first defendant might have chosen to adopt that particular course came readily to mind, not all of which were necessarily detrimental to him.

However, on the facts of the present case, the court could be satisfied that the first defendant had exercised highly persuasive, indeed coercive influence in order to induce the testator to make the disputed will, and that such influence was used in order to achieve, and did achieve that end.

Solicitor: Allen Ticehurst, East Grinstead.

European Law Report — Luxembourg

UK in breach over water quality

Commission of the European Communities v United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Case C-340/96

Before P. Jann, President of Chamber and Judges J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, C. Gulmann, D. A. O. Edward and L. Sevón

Advocate General J. Mischo

(Opinion September 15, 1998)

[Judgment April 22]

The United Kingdom had failed in its domestic legislation to fulfil its obligations under a Community directive on water quality.

The Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so declared on an application by the Commission of the European Communities under article 169 of the EC Treaty.

Council Directive 80/778/EEC of July 15, 1980 relating to the quality of water intended for human consumption (OJ 1980 L229, p11) inter alia, required member states to take the steps necessary to ensure that such water met specified requirements, except in special circumstances such as exceptional meteorological conditions.

The Water Industry Act 1991, inter alia, set out arrangements for ensuring that water companies complied with water-purity standards.

By section 18, where a water company supplied water which did not comply with the purity requirements, the secretary of state had in principle to make an enforcement order.

However, under section 19, the secretary of state was not required to make an enforcement order if, inter alia, he was satisfied that the company had given an undertaking to take all such steps as appeared to him appropriate for securing or facilitating compliance with the relevant rules.

After receiving numerous complaints, the Commission brought the present action, contending, inter alia, that, by reason of the system of mere undertakings provided for by the 1991 Act, compliance by the water companies with the standards of the directive was not being enforced.

In its judgment the Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice held:

The Commission stated that the undertakings in question were apt to contain clauses making it possible to amend both the target dates and the technical specifications of the works required to secure compliance with the standards of the directive.

Taking as an example the undertakings given by Thames Water, the company supplying water for London, the Commission pointed out that they were accepted without any reference to the quality standards to be met.

The United Kingdom stated that in certain cases compliance with the requirements of the directive necessitated significant construction work, public consultation and environmental impact assessments, and that for the purpose of attaining the desired result, undertakings constituted a more expeditious and efficacious procedure than enforcement orders.

In order to secure the full implementation of directives in law and not only in fact, member states had to establish a specific legal framework in the area in question.

In the case of the mechanism of undertakings at issue, that had not been achieved.

While the 1991 Act set out the procedure to be followed for issuing an enforcement order and required the secretary of state to specify the measures necessary to ensure that the water in question was brought into compliance with the directive's requirements within as short a time as possible, that was not so with the system of undertakings under section 19, which authorised the secretary of state to accept an undertaking on the sole condition that it contained such measures as appeared to him appropriate for ensuring compliance with the standards.

The Act thus did not specify the matters to be covered by the undertakings, in particular the parameters to be observed in respect of derogations, the programme of work to be carried out and the time within which it had to be completed, and, where appropriate, the information to be given to the population groups concerned.

The United Kingdom's argument that the Commission had approved the system of undertakings, particularly in a letter of May 1989, was not to the point, as the Court had consistently held that, except where such powers were expressly conferred on it, the Commission could not give guarantees concerning the compatibility of specific practices with Community law, and in no circumstances did it have the power to authorise practices which were contrary to Community law.

A further ground of complaint raised by the Commission was that, although the United Kingdom had transposed the directive into its domestic law by means of provisions which were sufficiently clear and precise to enable individuals to ascertain their rights, the persons entitled to exercise the rights concerned were prevented, so long as an undertaking was in force, from having recourse to the courts if they were supplied with water not complying with the quality standards of the directive.

However, while it was indeed the case that, where a directive was intended to create rights for individuals, member states had to lay down the provisions necessary to ensure that the persons entitled to exercise those rights enjoyed judicial protection, that ground was not admissible as it was not set out in the letter of formal notice or reasoned opinion that the Commission issued before starting the article 169 action, so that the Commission could not rely on it without enlarging the scope of the action and so infringing the rights of defence of the United Kingdom Government.

On those grounds the court declared that by accepting undertakings from water companies for the purpose of ensuring that water complied with the requirements of Directive 80/778, without the conditions governing the acceptance of such undertakings being specified in the 1991 Act, the United Kingdom had failed to fulfil its obligations under the EC Treaty and under that directive.

Court of Appeal

Law Report April 30 1999

Judge's power to grant residence order

Gloucestershire County Council v P (a Minor) and Others

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment April 27]

The flexibility given to a judge by section 10(1)(b) of the Children Act 1989 to make a residence order on *his own initiative was not limited* by the restrictions imposed by sections 9 and 10(3).

Accordingly, the court could in principle grant a residence order to foster parents who were prohibited from making the application themselves. Such an order would, however, be most exceptional and made on cogent grounds based on the clear needs of the child.

The Court of Appeal so held by majority (Lord Justice Thorpe dissenting) *in allowing an appeal on* a preliminary issue brought by the litigation friend, formerly guardian ad litem, of the child, P, against the refusal of Judge Neligan at Bristol County Court on January 22, 1999 to investigate the merits of the proposal put forward by P's litigation friend to discharge a care order and grant a residence order to the foster carers where P had lived for the past two and a half years.

Section 8 of the 1989 Act provides: "(1) In this Act ... 'a residence order' means an order settling the *arrangements to be made as to the* person with whom a child is to live..."

Section 9 provides: "(3) A person who is, or was at any time within *the last six months*, a local authority foster parent of a child may not apply for leave to apply for a section 8 order with respect to the child unless - (a) he has the consent *of the authority: (b) he is a relative* of the child or (c) the child has lived with him for at least three years preceding the application."

Section 10 provides: "(1) In any *family proceedings* in which a question arises with respect to the welfare of any child, the court may make a section 8 order with respect *to the child if* ... (b) the court considers that the order should be made even though no such application has been made...

"(3) This section is subject to the *restrictions imposed by section 9.*"

Miss Clare Wills-Goldingham for the litigation friend; Mr Alex J. Ralton for the paternal grandparents of the child.

LORD JUSTICE THORPE, dissenting, said that the appeal raised a point of *construction of the interaction* of sections 9 and 10.

Judge Neligan had the responsibility of deciding the future of P who was four years old and who had entered the care of Gloucestershire County Council under a care order made in the Family *Proceedings Court on September 10, 1997.*

In May 1998 the council applied for a freeing order. That application was supported by P's mother but opposed by the paternal family *which had united* in support of the application of the paternal grandparents for a residence order.

At a pre-trial review, P's litigation friend opposed the *applications and proposed that the court* should of its own motion discharge P from care and grant a residence order to the foster carers where P had been living for the previous *two and a half years.*

At the hearing, Mr Ralton raised the objection that the effect of sections 9 and 10 was to exclude the foster parents as persons to *whom the court could of its own* motion grant a residence order.

He submitted that they lacked the necessary standing under section 9(3) since they did not fall into *any of the categories there mentioned* and relied on the decision of Mr Justice Wall in *In re M D and T D (Minors) (No 2)* ([1994] Family Law 489).

Judge Neligan rightly held that he was bound by that authority and concluded that it would therefore be vain to investigate the merits of the proposal of the litigation friend.

The *question was whether the* powers in section 10 were subject to the restrictions in section 9, as section 10(3) seemed to state, or were the restrictions relating to foster parents purely procedural, only restricting their rights of application and not touching the court's power *to make any residence order that* served the paramount welfare principle despite the absence of an application?

His Lordship reluctantly concluded that section 10(3) *meant* what it said and precluded the court from making a residence order of its own motion in favour of a foster parent caught by the restriction in section 9(3).

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER *said that while* he was extremely reluctant to differ from Lord Justice Thorpe and Mr Justice Wall *on a point of family law,* he had reached a different conclusion.

1 Section 10(1) and (2) drew a clear distinction between section 8 orders *made on an application by a* person, and orders by the court, in the traditional phrase, of its own motion.

2 The court's powers under section 10(1) and (2), and would-be applicants' rights under section 10(4) to (8) were all 'subject to the restrictions imposed by section 9'. In order to see whether there were any *relevant restrictions it was* necessary to look at section 9.

3 The restriction in section 9(3) was, in striking contrast to all the other restrictions except that in the *first part of subsection (2)*, procedural in character: it disqualified a particular class of person from applying for leave under section 10(1)(a)(ii) or (2)(b).

4 There was no reason to read into section 9(3) a further substantive restriction which Parliament had *not* spelled out since to do so would (a) ignore the distinction noted at 1 above: (b) ignore the different language *used in other parts of section* 9, including section 9(2) and (c) curtail the court's powers in an area in which any doubt should be resolved in favour of flexibility.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS said that the overall policy of the Act to place a double fence around the right of foster parents to apply was clearly stated. But the *further requirement that the court* was also bound by that restriction was not clearly stated.

The curtailment of the court's powers to make orders in cases of children in care *were expressly provided* for in several sections of the Act, see, for example section 9(1).

Her Ladyship found it difficult to understand why Parliament, *having provided that additional* power to the court under section 10(1)(b), should then circumscribe *its extent without using clear language* such as was found in section 9.

Her Ladyship recognised the clear policy of the Act to restrict *foster parents* to a special category of applicants. She equally took account of the restrictions in the Act upon the powers of the court which were otherwise clearly expressed *and mandatory.*

The power given to the court by section 10(1)(b) incorporated into the 1989 Act the jurisdiction of the High Court in wardship to make *the most appropriate order in the* interests of the child without being trammelled by procedural hurdles.

In this instance, however, there was no clear restriction upon the court in its application of that additional flexibility in the making of *orders, a flexibility which* was also part of the philosophy of the Act.

Her Ladyship did not consider that, in the absence of clear words of restriction upon the powers of the court which were to be found in other parts of the Act, *section* 10 should be read narrowly so as to curtail the powers of the court in *the exercise of its discretion* where the welfare of the child was paramount.

Her Ladyship had therefore reached the conclusion with some hesitation that *the general restriction* under section 10(3) did not apply to prohibit the court from making *an order under section 10(1)(b).*

Her Ladyship wished, however, to add some words of caution. It was obvious that the court's power to make an order not asked for by either party ought to be used sparingly and with caution and only after giving all parties proper time to make submissions.

Further, in this sensitive area of child care, a foster parent application which was not supported by the local authority, even after three *years, ought to be scrutinised* by the court with great care.

It followed therefore that to make an order granting residence to foster parents who were prohibit*ed from making the application* themselves had to be a most exceptional order made on cogent grounds firmly based on the clear needs of the child.

A *residence order which was* made by the court at a time near to the expiry of the three years requirement might not be quite so difficult to justify as one made much earlier, particularly since delay was stated by the Act to be generally detrimental to the welfare of the child.

To adjourn a case in order to allow foster parents to seek leave to apply after three years was up *might be more disadvantageous* to the child than to grasp the nettle and make a section 10(1)(b) order of the court's *own motion* a *few* months earlier.

Solicitors: Willans, Cheltenham; Winterbothams, Stroud.

Council has no discretion in implementing red route

Waddell and Others v Kensington and Chelsea LBC and Another

Before Mr Justice Harrison

[Judgment March 31]

Where the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions had designated a priority route as a red route, the local council had a duty under section 57(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1991, *and not a discretion, to implement* that designation, in accordance with its local section 54 plan.

Mr Justice Harrison so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application under paragraphs 35 and 36 of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 to quash *two orders* made by Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council, on August 14, 1998, namely, the Kensington and Chelsea (Prescribed Routes) (No 5) Priority (Red) Route *Experimental* Traffic Order 1998 and the Kensing*ton and Chelsea (Prescribed* Routes) (No 6) Priority (Red) Routes (Side Roads) Experimental Traffic Order 1998. The orders involved the implementation of a red route along the A322, the Earls Court one way system.

The local council was opposed to *the implementation of red routes* but expressed its opposition politically while continuing to make progress in carrying out the necessary works for the orders.

The applicants, anti red route campaigners, contended, inter *alia, that the intention to implement* the red route initially by way of experimental orders under section 9 of the 1984 Act was unlawful in that it failed to consider the principle whether the Earls Court one *way system should be a red route.*

Mr Stephen Hockman, QC, *Miss Claire Wright for the applicants;* Mr Timothy Straker, QC, Mr Peter Harrison for the council; Mr Mark Lowe, QC, Mr James Findlay for the Traffic Director of London.

LORD JUSTICE HARRISON said that the power to designate red routes was governed by the 1991 Act. *That contained a tiered sequence* of events.

It started with the designation of a network of red routes in London by the secretary of state. That was *followed by the preparation of a* network plan for the design and operation of the red routes by the Traffic Director of London having regard to the secretary of states's traffic management guidance.

That led to a duty on London au*thorities to prepare a local plan* relating to the operation of the red routes in their area which had to be approved by the director.

Once the local plan had been ap*proved, the London local authority* was under a duty pursuant to section 57(1) of the 1991 Act to implement the plan as soon as was reasonably practicable and to continue to act in manner which was compatible with it. The duty was to implement the local plan. The words "as soon as is reasonably practica*ble*" in section 57(1)(a) related to the timing of the implementation.

They gave a discretion to the council as to the timing of the implementation but they did not give a discretion to the council to object in principle to the implementation *of the red route.*

While the council could continue to seek to persuade the secretary of state at the political level to change his mind about the designation of the Earls Court one way system as a red route, so long as it remained *designated as a red route it* remained the council's duty to implement that designation in its local plan and continue to act in manner compatible with it.

Solicitors: Clyde & Co; Mr Alun Phillips, Kensington; Treasury So*licitor.*

No entitlement to benefit

Regina v Adjudication Officer, Ex parte Velasquez

The transitional protection for immigrants *in* receipt of child benefit inserted by amendment into regulation 14B(g) of the Child Benefit (General) Regulations (SI 1976 No 965) applied to those persons who immediately before October 7, 1996 were actually being paid child ben*efit, not those who were entitled* but whose claims had not been finally processed.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Schiemann) so held on March 17, refusing the ap*plication of Claudia Restrepo* Velasquez for judicial review of the adjudication officer's rejection of her application for child benefit.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS said that the issue was whether the applicant was entitled to the transitional protection in regulation 14B(g) of the 1976 Regula*tions made pursuant to section* 146A of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, as inserted by section 10 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, on the basis that she was being paid benefit immediately before October 7, 1996.

She had not been paid but later was awarded benefit in respect of a period before that date. The applicant and her family arrived in the *United Kingdom in March 19996* claiming asylum, a claim not yet finally determined.

It was submitted for the applicant that "is being paid" in regulation 14(B)(g) meant "is entitled to be paid".

The natural *meaning* of the words was anyone who received payment. She was not entitled to relief.

Court of Appeal

Single application over separate orders

Dixon v Allgood

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Robert Walker and Lord Justice May

[Judgment April 14]

A single application could be made for leave to appeal against two or more interlocutory orders made in the same case but on different occasions.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an application *for leave to* appeal by, and the appeal of James Dixon, the plaintiff against the decision of Mr Ian Joseph, deputy registrar of Civil Appeals, on Febru*ary 14, 1997 that he had to make* two separate applications for leave to appeal against interlocutory costs orders made by Judge Maddocks, sitting as a judge of the *Chancery Division on* October 18, 1991 and December 6, 1996, in an action against the defendant, Lancelot Allgood.

Mr Dixon in person; Mr Allgo*od did* not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE MAY said that the practical consequence of the deputy registrar's decision that Mr Dixon had to make two separate applications for leave to appeal *was that he had had to* pay two fees of £100 each instead of only one fee.

The deputy registrar's decision had been made by reference to what was now paragraph 59/3/26 of *The Supreme Court Practice 1999* (vol 1, p1028) under the heading "Appeals against more than one order - multiple notices of appeal".

The note referred to *Hawes v Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Constabulary* (*The Times* May 20, 1993) where the Court of *Appeal had held that separate no*tices of appeal were not required for appeals against orders made in the same proceedings at the same trial or hearing.

The note continued: "... *if orders* are made in one action, but not at the same trial or hearing, separate notices of appeal will still be required".

Mr Dixon submitted that that note was editorial only and was not supported by *Hawes.* He submitted that a requirement for separate notices of appeal or separate *applications for leave to appeal* from interlocutory orders made in the same case would be unnecessary and wasteful even if the orders were made on separate occa*sions.*

In his Lordship's view, Order 59, rule 3 of the Rules of the Supreme Court did not address, nor did it come close to addressing, the *question whether a single* notice of appeal could include appeals from two or more orders made in the same case but on different occasions.

Mr Dixon's case was concerned with *not one or more notices of appeal* but with applications for leave to appeal. The part of Order 59 which dealt with applications was rule 14.

There was no editorial note to rule 14 equivalent to paragraph 59/3/26. There was nothing in rule 14 which helped to answer *the question* which the present case raised.

Hawes did not address the question before the court. There was no relevant rule which dictated the an*swer and certainly no rule which* compelled the conclusion stated in the last sentence of the editorial comment already referred to.

His Lordship could see no rea*son of substance or practice or practicality* why two applications for leave to appeal from separate decisions given on different days in the same case had to be made on sepa*rate pieces of paper. There was eve*ry reason of economy why they should be made in a single application.

That was especially so in the *present case where both applica*tions had related to interlocutory costs orders and where the second application had related to an order which had itself related to the or*der which the first application* sought to challenge.

The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Robert Walker agreed.

Plea bargaining is always inappropriate

Regina v Ryan

Before Mr Justice Klevan and Mr Justice Gray

[Judgment March 29]

It was invariably inappropriate for counsel to approach a judge seeking an indication as to the length of sentence he was minded to impose, and it was all the more undesirable where the basis of the approach was that the defendant might be prepared to plead guilty in the *light of the indication.*

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated when granting a renewed application for leave, allowing the appeal of Deborah Marie Ryan, and reducing to 18 months imprisonment a sentence *of four years imposed on August 3,* 1998 by Judge Appleton at Preston Crown Court following a plea of guilty, on re-arraignment, to possession of heroin with intent to supply.

On July 6, Judge Bennett, before *whom the* case had been listed for trial, had indicated in chambers to counsel present that on a plea of guilty he would probably impose a sentence of not more than 18 months imprisonment. On being so informed, the applicant changed her plea to one of guilty and the case was adjourned for reports.

Judge Bennett was unavailable when it was listed for sentencing, so it went before Judge Appleton, *who was not told what Judge Bennett had indicated* earlier.

Mr Nicholas Courtney, who did *not appear below, for the appellant;* Mr A. S. J. Alty for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE GRAY, giving the judgment of the court, said that there was a clear line of authority, starting with *R v Turner* ([1970] 2 QB 321), which appeared to establish the following propositions:

1 Approaches to a judge seeking an indication of the length of sentence which might be imposed in the event of a plea of guilty were to be deprecated.

2 Where such an indication was given and conveyed to a defendant, it would *normally* be binding not only on the judge who gave the indication but also on any other judge before whom a defendant might appear to be sentenced.

3 Where a defendant had changed his or her plea in the light of such an indication from the judge but had subsequently been subjected to a more severe sentence than that indicated, the Court of Appeal would often, but not invariably, feel constrained to reduce the sentence to that indicated, even if the *indicated sentence was lower than* the offence merited in all the circumstances.

The present case was a vivid illustration of the harmful consequences *which might flow from* plea bargaining of the kind that had occurred.

The departure from what should be the established practice was compounded by the omission on the part of counsel to inform Judge Appleton before he passed sentence of the indication which had earlier been given by Judge Bennett.

Although in their Lordships' *judgment the sentence imposed* was justifiable for such an offence, in accordance with the principles enunciated, the application would be granted and the appeal allowed.

Solicitors: Stanley H. Cross & Co, Chorley; Crown Prosecution Service, Preston.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE (CAP. 41 OF THE LAWS OF HONG KONG)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR SANCTION OF TRANSFER OF LONG TERM BUSINESS (Pursuant to Section 24)

GUARDIAN ASSURANCE PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY and CMG ASIA LIFE ASSURANCE LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Section 24 of the Insurance Companies Ordinance, an application, by the way of petition, had been made by Guardian Assurance Public Limited Company, a company incorporated in England, ("Guardian Assurance"), to the Court of First Instance of Hong Kong on 23rd March, 1999 for approval of a proposed scheme of transfer ("the Scheme") of the whole of the long term business carried on by Guardian Assurance in or from Hong Kong to CMG Asia Life Assurance Limited ("CMG"), a company incorporated in Bermuda and authorised to carry on the relevant classes of long term business in Hong Kong. Subject to the approval of the Scheme by the Court of First Instance, it is proposed that the Scheme shall take effect on 2nd June, 1999.

A copy of the petition and of a report on the terms of the Scheme by an independent actuary is available for inspection at Guardian Assurance Public Limited Company, 31/F, Hong Kong Telecom Tower, Taikoo Place, 979 King's Road, Quarry Bay and CMG Asia Life Assurance Limited, 39/F, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Wanchai during normal office hours from the date of this notice until 21st May, 1999.

The petition is directed to be heard in the Court of First Instance on 1st June, 1999 and any person, including any employee of CMG and Guardian Assurance who alleges that he or she would be adversely affected by the carrying out of the Scheme may appear at the time of hearing in person or by counsel. Any person who intends so to appear, and any policyholder of CMG or Guardian Assurance who dissents from the Scheme but does not intend so to appear, should give not less than 3 clear days prior notice in writing of such intention or dissent, and the reasons therefore, to Guardian Assurance or CMG at their respective addresses set out above. Alternatively, such prior notice can be given to the solicitors of Guardian Assurance, Slaughter and May, 27th Floor, Two Exchange Square, Central, Hong Kong, or the solicitors of CMG, Baker & McKenzie, 14th Floor, Hutchison House, 10 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong.

Dated this 30th day of April, 1999.

Guardian Assurance Public Limited Company
31/F, Hong Kong Telecom Tower, Taikoo Place, 979 King's Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong.

CMG Asia Life Assurance Limited
39/F, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

THE HIGH COURT
No. 67Coact 5 1999
IN THE MATTER OF EUROPEAN LEISURE PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACTS 1963 - 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition presented to the High Court of Ireland on 21st April, 1999 for an Order confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company and an amount outstanding to the credit of the share premium account is directed to be heard before the High Court of Ireland on Monday 17th May, 1999 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon at the Four Courts, Dublin 7. Any creditor or contributory of the company who wishes to support or oppose the making of an order of the said petition may appear at the time of the hearing either by himself or his Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any creditor or contributory of the said company who requires it on payment of the regular charge for same.

A & L Goodbody Solicitors for the company, 1 Earlsfort Centre, Hatch Street, Dublin 2. Ref: CLP

Note: Any person who intends to appear at the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the said address, notice in writing of his intention to do so. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm must be signed by the person or firm or their solicitor (if any) and must be served or if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach A & L Goodbody not later than 5pm on Friday 14th May, 1999.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
No. 2693 of 1999
IN THE MATTER OF REED INTERNATIONAL P.L.C.
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition was on 16 April 1999 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of capital of the above-named Company from £189,000,000 to £183,931,647 by returning capital which is in excess of the wants of the Company.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on 12 May 1999.

Any creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED 30 April 1999
Messrs Freshfields
65 Fleet Street
London EC4Y 1HS
(Ref: JGL/ARB)
Tel: 0171 832 4299
Solicitors for the above-named Company

ACTION NO. CL18/99
IN THE SUPREME COURT
TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE 1981 (AS AMENDED)
AND IN THE MATTER OF OCEAN MARINE MUTUAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED ("the Company")
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT:-

1. On 4th March, 1999, Midland Bank PLC ("Midland") of Poultry, London EC2P 2BX presented a winding-up petition against the Company (registered office: Marmaine Floor, Town Centre Building, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands);

2. On 4th March, 1999, Gareth Howard Hughes and Christopher John Wilkinson Hill both of Ernst & Young, Rolls House, 7 Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London, England and Paul Clarke of Ernst & Young, Sassoon House, Shirley and Victoria, Nassau, Bahamas were appointed as joint provisional liquidators of the Company;

3. The hearing of the Petition has been adjourned until 13th October, 1999 at 10.00am;

4. Any person intending to appear at the hearing of the Petition must file with the Registrar of the Supreme Court and serve on Midland's Attorneys no later than 9th August, 1999, notice of his intention to appear specifying:-

(a) the name and addresses of the person giving the notice and any telephone or telefax number which may be required for communicating with him or any other person specified in the notice who is authorised to speak or act on his behalf;

(b) the nature and amount of his claim against or interest in the Company;

(c) whether his intention is to support or oppose the Petition and the grounds of such support or opposition; and

(d) whether he intends to appear at the hearing of the petition in person or by Counsel.

5. Midland's Attorneys are Misick & Stanbrook of P.O. Box 127, Town Centre Mall, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands

Dated this 27th day of April, 1999.

MISICK & STANBROOK

Salvidge Haulage and Transport Limited
The Insolvency Act and Rules 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, I, E J Wacey of Buckler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF, give notice that on 21 April 1999 I was appointed Liquidator of Salvidge Haulage And Transport Limited by resolutions of members and creditors.

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 18 June 1999 to send in their full names and addresses, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned E J Wacey of 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.

Dated: 26 April 1999
E J Wacey, Liquidator

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHY-1161C
CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The Middlesex Hospital General Purpose Trust Fund
Reference: DCF627843NRS

The Commission has made a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at 2nd Floor, 140 Hampstead Road, London NW1 2BX, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to 2nd Floor, 20 Kings Parade, Queens Dock, Liverpool L3 4DQ quoting the reference above.

PUBLIC NOTICES

BARNBY nee WIBBEN Paula Barnby nee Wibben widow late of Grasmere, Cumbria died there on 6 December 1998 (Estate about £30,000)

GATES Constance Mary Gates, Spinster late of Willesden, London NW10 died at Park Royal, London NW10 on 21 September 1998 (Estate about £40,000)

LAMB, Phyllis Regina Lamb otherwise Caroline Regina Lamb, widow late of Kingston upon Thames, Surrey died at Tolworth, Surrey on 20 November 1998 (Estate about £477,000)

MCTAGGART Frank McTaggart late of Harlesden, London, NW10 died at Chelsea, London, SW10 on 8 April 1997 (Estate about £8,000)

MYCHAJLYSZYN Wolodymyr Mychajlyszyn late of Bourne, Lincolnshire died at Stamford, Lincolnshire on 4 January 1998 (Estate about £37,000)

O'SHAUGHNESSY otherwise SHAUGNESSY William Louis Shaugnessy late of Stoke Newington, London N16 died at Hackney, London E9 on 29 August 1996 (Estate about £10,500)

PARKER, Arthur Parker late of Rotherham, South Yorkshire died there on 24th November 1998 (Estate about £15,000)

PERRY Dennis Stanley Perry late of Birmingham, West Midlands died there on 7 August 1998 (Estate about £12,000)

SHAW Stanley James Shaw late of Wickford, Essex died there on 29 September 1997 (Estate about £6,000)

SHAW William Shaw late of Nottingham died there on 29 August 1998 (Estate about £14,000)

The kin of the above named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (B.V.), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

RACING: JOHNSON INSPIRED AS ANZUM ADDS TO FESTIVAL MOOD

Katarino proves a class apart for Henderson

FROM ALAN LEE, RACING CORRESPONDENT, AT PUNCHESTOWN

AS A vignette of the concoction unique to Punchestown, the victories of Risk Of Thunder and Katarino within a breathless half-hour yesterday could not be bettered. One horse negotiated the banks, stone walls and baffling turns of the four-mile cross-country course; the other won a championship two-mile hurdle run at spectacular speed.

Katarino's triumph in the IAWS Hurdle was a confirmation of Cheltenham form and an overwhelming relief to his trainer, Nick Henderson, who had viewed the sunshine rapidly drying the ground with ill-concealed distaste. "He hated it and we won't risk him again on ground as fast as this," he said.

This, however, is one tigerish animal. Unbeaten since joining Henderson, the 7-4 favourite beat off a strong and confident Irish challenge, jumping boldly and staying on well to win by a length and a half. "It was a fantastic performance," Henderson said. "He's tough and brave and his jumping stands up to any pressure."

Henderson is considering sending Katarino back to his native country for the French Champion Hurdle in June. "But he'll only go it the ground is soft. He has now won the two that matter, because I adore Punchestown and this was a serious prize."

The logical course for Katarino next season might be a tilt at Istabraq in the Champion Hurdle but, on good ground, Henderson is tempted to increase his trip and go for the Stayers' Hurdle instead. In that event, he should find himself taking on another horse to complete the Cheltenham-Punchestown double yesterday.

If Katarino's victory was predictable, that of Anzum in the Ballymore Properties Champion Stayers' Hurdle was not. David Nicholson's gelding had snatched the Cheltenham equivalent in the last stride, when an unconsidered 40-1 shot, and he was relatively friendless again at 7-1 here as Le Coudray was backed as if defeat was inconceivable.

Anzum had come from an apparently impossible position at Cheltenham but this time he set off to make all, and plainly enjoyed it. Brilliantly ridden by Richard Johnson, he repelled all challenges to win emphatically from Khayrawani, Le Coudray fading rapidly to be pulled up, distressed, on the home turn.

Nicholson, who was gaining compensation for the first-fence fall of Escartefigue in the Heineken Gold Cup on Wednesday, was justly jubilant. "That was nearly the riding performance of the season to jump off and make all in a championship race on an essentially slow horse," he said. "He is slow but he tries and he stays. It's nice to have a true champion, because nobody can say that was a fluke."

Philip Hobbs later turned out his second winner of the meeting, and Britain's sixth, with Native Fling, but for those who delight in the traditions of Punchestown, the highlight of the day was the La Touche Cup. This unfathomable race was named after a character who managed this course for 30 years up to 1921 and clearly had a sense of humour. It is a celebration of Irishness and Risk Of Thunder is its emblem.

Remarkably, this was the fifth consecutive year he has won the event, the third since entering the ownership of Sean Connery. The film star was absent yesterday, doubtless dealing with the constitutional matters of his native Scotland, but he would, anyway, have been upstaged by the real star in these parts, Enda Bolger.

This was Bolger's last ride before retirement and there could have been no finer farewell for the most successful point-to-point rider ever, with 412 victories to his name. The horse was foot-perfect, the jockey almost motionless. Afterwards, he hurled his whip to the cheering crowd and was hoisted onto the shoulders of fellow jockeys.

This was stirringly representative of a part of Punchestown that will never perish, no matter the scale and speed of its advance. Little else remains as it was, even two years ago. The three-card tricksters survive, and the ladies who sell sweets from rusty prams, but trade stands, coffee bars and that rarest of Irish commodities, signposts, have sprung up everywhere on the once rustic acres.

Last year's Festival, run in appalling weather, was described by Charlie Murless, the chief executive, as "a horror story that might have left us dead in the water". This year, with record crowds each day and a daily betting turnover of £2 million, has been a triumph.

Hundreds of British people now take a week's holiday to come here and, judging by the look of them last night, another week to recover. Cheltenham officials, stoutly resisting the temptation of a fourth day, will be present today to see if it works. With Istabraq among those present, it can hardly fail.



Anzum, far side, jumps the last ahead of Khayrawani in the Champion Stayers' Hurdle at Punchestown yesterday

PUNCHESTOWN FIELDS AND RESULTS

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

3.15 LAWLORS OF NAAS/POITIN STIL HANDICAP CHASE (£6,875: 2m) (20 runners) C4

1 P/014P SORCERER'S DRUM 26 (D,S) (S Galvin) A L Moore 8-12-0 ... C O'Dwyer –
2 2F1332 TOTAL SUCCESS 20 (BF,CD,S) (S Ross) T Walsh 7-12-6 ... G T Hutchinson (7) –
3 1-10PF ACES AND EIGHTS 24 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs P Hughes) P Hughes ... J Maguire (3) –
4 22/02/ COMMON POLICY 758 (D,F,G,S) (P O'Leary) P O'Leary 10-11-11 ... F J Flood –
5 31141 CLIFDON FOG 20 (D,G,S) (J Hill) P Mullins 8-11-10 ... T P Treacy –
6 1-3215 BEATSON 102 (BF,D,F,G,S) (Mrs E Gardener) R Suckle (UK) 10-11-9 ... B G Powell
7 -52420 RITH DUBH 3 (G) (J McManus) C Roche 7-11-3 ... Mr P McKenny (3) –
8 52224F BANGABUNNY 6 (S) (Winning Post Racing Synd) Mrs S Bramall 9-11-3 ... D J Casey 111
9 00P1PP DELGANY ROYAL 24 (S) (G O Hagan) J Fanning 7-11-2 ... T P Rudd –
10 842-34 WOODLAND KING 25 (C Hanbury) A L Moore 7-11-1 ... B M Cash –
11 0-P03P APPLEFORT 25 (G,S) (H Stanley) M Cunningham 9-10-8 ... K P Gaule –
12 0F6FP1 FEELING GRAND 27 (D,S) (I Stewart-Brown) H De Bromhead 7-10-6 ... B J Geraghty –
13 104032 VIKING BUOY 25 (BF,F,G,S) (M Ryan) D Kiely 7-10-5 ... R Walsh –
14 132130 FLYING IN THE GALE 219 (D,F,G) (Always Optimists) T Cooper 9-10-5 ... A O'Shea (3) –
15 5-32F0 LUCKY BUST 27 (D,S) (Mrs W Harney) W Harney 9-10-5 ... G Cotter –
16 333-04 NOBLE TOM 5 (D,F,G) (N Glynn) N Glynn 7-10-4 ... M D Murphy (5) –
17 05-344 LEGATISSIMO 25 (S) (Mrs S Purcell) J Larkin 11-9-13 ... R P McNally (5) –
18 0-0605 AUDITTY 21 (P Law) A L Moore 6-9-11 ... J R Barry –
19 0510U5 BARNAMIRE BAY 6 (D,F,S) (L Hall) N Nelson 10-9-7 ... P L Malone –
20 0U066F JOHNNY'S DREAM 24 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Nicholson) D Hughes 5-9-7 ... K A Kelly (5) –

BETTING: 13-2 Viking Buoy, 8-1 Total Success, Clifdon Fog, Beatson, 10-1 Rith Dubh, Bangabunny, Woodland King, 12-1 others.

3.50 SHELL CHAMPION HURDLE (Grade I: £66,000: 2m) (7 runners)

1 111111 ISTABRAQ 20 (C,D,F,G,S) (J McManus) A P O'Brien 7-12-0 ... C F Swan
2 0051F0 ARCHIVE FOOTAGE 25F (B,BF,D,S) (Dr M Smurfit) D Weld 7-11-9 ... D T Evans 62
3 -24212 DECOUPAGE 43 (BF,D,G,S) (J Dean) C Egerton (UK) 7-11-9 ... N Williamson 153
4 F340U2 FEATHERED LEADER 25 (D,G,S) (M O'Connor) A L Moore 7-11-9 ... C O'Dwyer –
5 212111 LIMESTONE LAD 40 (D,S) (J Bowe) J Bowe 7-11-9 ... A P McCoy –
6 -F3112 SPACE TRUCKER 3 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs E Queally) Mrs J Harrington 8-11-9 ... J R Barry –
7 2-1521 SIR TALBOT 43 (D,G,S) (W Sturt) J Old (UK) 5-11-8 ... T J Murphy 150

BETTING: 8-15 Istabraq, 7-1 Decoupage, 8-1 Limestone Lad, Sir Talbot, 10-1 Space Trucker, 16-1 Archive Footage, Feathered Leader.

1998: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

Going: good to soft

3.15 IAWS CHAMPION FOUR-YEAR-OLD HURDLE (2m) 1, **Katarino** (M A Fitzgerald, 7-4 fav); 2, Golden Rule (11-1); 3, Afarad (6-1). 9 ran. 1½l, 3½l. N Henderson at Lambourn. Tote: £2.70; £1.50, £3.20, £2.20. DF: £25.20. CSF: £19.78. Trio: £49.30.

3.50 TRIPLEPRINT NOVICE CHASE (2m) 1, **Sydney Twothousand** (N Williamson, 11-2); 2, Society Brief (9-1); 3, Promalee (5-4 fav). 6 ran. NR: Cockney Lad. 3l, 2½l, 4l. N Meade in Ireland. Tote: £4.30; £1.80, £3.50. DF: £25.80. CSF: £43.39.

4.25 BALLYMORE PROPERTIES CHAMPION STAYERS HURDLE (3m) 1, **Anzum** (R Johnson, 7-1); 2, Khayrawani (16-1); 3, Mister Morose (12-1). Le Coudray 1-2 fav. 6 ran. 2½l, 3½l. D Nicholson at Temple Guiting. Tote: £8.30; £2.90, £3.00. DF: £20.30. CSF: £80.18.

NEWMARKET

ROB WRIGHT

2.05 Flag Fen
2.35 Mukhalif
3.10 RABAH (nap)
3.40 Zippergate
4.15 Keld
4.50 Houdini's Honey
5.20 Surveillance

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.35 ADNAAN

Our Newmarket correspondent: 2.35 Swan Knight. 3.40 SURPRISE ENCOUNTER (nap). 4.50 Houdini's Honey.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

READING THE RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F - fell. P - pulled up. U - unseated rider. B - brought down. S - slipped up. R - refused. D - disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps. (B - blinkers. V - visor. T - tongue strap. H - hood. E - Eyeshield. C - course winner. D - distance winner. CD course and distance winner. BF - beaten favourite in most recent race). Going on which horse has won (F - firm, good to firm, hard. G - good. S - soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight to be carried. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

2.05 TURN OF THE LANDS HANDICAP C4

(£5,816: 1m 2f) (20 runners)

101 (8) 612-0 GATECRASHER 27 (S) (J Greetham) J Fanshawe 4-9-13 ... R Cochrane 85
102 (11) 000-00 RIVER BEAT 13 (D,F,G,S) (High Havens Stables) K Burke 4-9-12 ... D Williams (7) 98
103 (14) 2040-0 PRAETORIAN GOLD 25 (D,G,S) (Gold Buster Syndicate) R Hannon 4-9-9 ... R Hughes 98
104 (19) 33333- SWEET SORROW 198 (Mrs Y Allan) C Wall 4-9-8 ... S Sanders 94
105 (13) 1440-2 FANTASY NIGHT 29 (BF,F) (Windflower Overseas) J Dunlop 4-9-3 ... Pat Eddery 75
106 (17) 400-65 PINCHINCHA 13 (D,F,S) (D & L Racing Club) D Morris 5-9-3 ... N Day 83
107 (7) 2144-0 MIRACLE ISLAND 13 (Mrs P Fenwick) D Elsworth 4-9-2 ... N Pollard (3) 76
108 (1) 0236-0 BE MY WISH 29 (F) (T Tran) S Woods 4-9-1 ... G Duffield 98
109 (12) 0034-0 ST LAWRENCE 18 (S Manana) C Brittain 5-9-0 ... P Robinson 73
110 (6) 33/501 DANAKIL 34 (Danakilists) J Banks 4-8-13 ... J Quinn 74
111 (18) 54100- FLAG FEN 174 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs C Dolan) H Collingridge 8-8-9 ... C Cogan (7) 87
112 (10) 00013/ PRINCE ALEX 583 (T,C,G) (M Dawson) Mrs A Perrett 5-8-9 ... T Sprake –
113 (15) 0053- JAGUAR 198 (A Fitzpatrick) N Twiston-Davies 3-8-8 ... T Quinn 71
114 (4) 0100-0 A TOUCH OF FROST 22 (F) (Mrs P Williams) G Margarson 4-8-8 ... A Clark 76
115 (3) 022d4- MUTADARRA 265 (BF,CD,F,G) (Mrs R Brown) W Musson 6-8-8 ... D Holland
116 (20) 4-3131 ISABELLA GONZAGA 69 (D,F) (J Waugh) R Cowell 5-8-7 ... K Fallon 91
117 (2) 006- SILK PRINCESS 189 (R Gun) R Flower 4-8-7 ... Dane O'Neill 59
118 (5) -21633 ZAHA 17 (BF) (Exclusive Three Partnership) J Pearce 4-8-4 ... A Polli (3) 75
119 (9) 00-006 HERR TRIGGER 43 (B,CD,F) (Inn Crowd) Dr J Scargill 8-8-1 ... F Norton 79
120 (16) 600/04 BROUGHTONS ERROR 59 (G) (M W Goodey) W Musson 5-7-11 ... M Henry 71

BETTING: 6-1 Fantasy Night, 7-1 Zaha, 8-1 Isabella Gonzaga, 10-1 River Beat, Pinchincha, Danakil, 12-1 Praetorian Gold, Sweet Sorrow, Mutadarra, 14-1 others.

1998: CARLYS QUEST 4-8-8 T Quinn (33-1) J Neville 24 ran

PINCHINCHA has fallen to an attractive mark and should represent a bit of value in an open contest. He finished no closer than fourth in five starts last season but is now 10lb lower in the handicap than at the start of last year and showed that he was ready to strike when a fine 2l fifth of 22 to Grinkov at Newbury (1m 2f, good to firm) 13 days ago. Miracle Island (8th) and River Beat (10th) are both held on that form and Zaha may prove a bigger threat. Jeff Pearce's charge failed to get the best of runs when beaten 2l and 1¼l into third by Top Jem and Fantasy Night at Leicester (1m 2f, good to soft) at the start of the month and can now reverse placings with the runner up on 2lb better terms. Danakil appreciated the step up to 9f when running out a 6l winner of a Wolverhampton maiden (standard) last month and does not appear harshly treated on a mark of 69. Isabella Gonzaga is another who could prove well treated if translating her sand form to turf, while Gatecrasher may have needed his reappearance effort after being gelded. Nigel Twiston-Davies saddles a rare Flat runner in Jaguar who showed ability in four starts for Gay Kelleway at two years.

2.35 GREEN RIDGE STABLES NEWMARKET STAKES C4

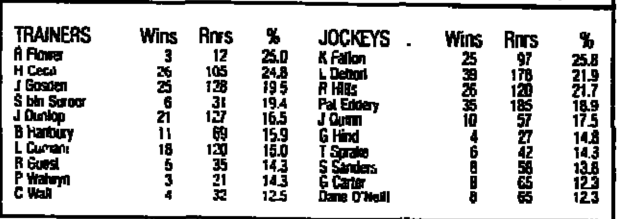
(Listed race; 3-Y-O: £12,842: 1m 2f) (9 runners)

201 (1) 23211- ADNAAN 181 (D,S) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 8-11 ... R Hills
202 (9) 3-6 ANSCHLUSS 15 (S Manana) C Brittain 8-8 ... P Robinson 77
203 (4) 116-51 BATHWICK 18 (F,G) (W Clifford) B Smart 8-8 ... D Holland 88
204 (7) 21- BEAT ALL 232 (S) (S Suhail) Sir M Stoute 8-8 ... Pat Eddery 85
205 (3) 11- MUKHALIF 215 (S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 8-8 ... L Dettori 97
206 (5) 43-626 SERGEANT YORK 13 (S) (A Needham) C Smith 8-8 ... J F Egan 97
207 (2) 2- SILVER ROBIN 175 (W, M & Mrs E Robins) L Cumani 8-8 ... K Fallon 82
208 (6) 1 SWAN KNIGHT 16 (C,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-8 ... O Peslier 86
209 (8) 23-105 YAKAREEM 15 (H Al-Mutawa) K Mahdi 8-8 ... G Mosse 94

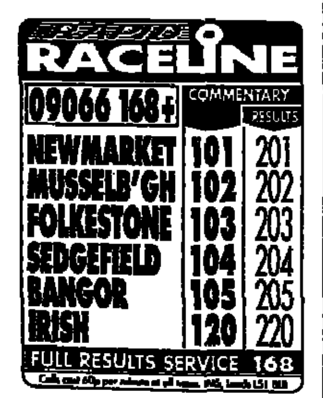
BETTING: 7-4 Mukhalif, 4-1 Adnaan, 5-1 Beat All, 7-1 Swan Knight, 8-1 Bathwick, 10-1 Silver Robin, 16-1 Yakareem, 20-1 others.

1998: DR FONG 8-11 K Fallon (11-4 fav) H Cecil 6 ran

Adnaan, pulled out of the Thresher Classic Trial at Sandown on Saturday with the ground riding soft, had overcome similarly testing conditions when winning the listed Zetland Stakes by ½l from Forest Shadow on the Rowley Mile course (1m 2f) in October. Connections obviously feel he will do better for a sound surface but a 3lb penalty makes his task tougher here and he will do well to deny MUKHALIF. Godolphin's first British runner of the season will be closely watched and a big run from this former David Loder trainee will bode well for the Dubai operation's Guineas runners. Mukhalif's two runs last year saw him win a Leicester maiden (7f, good to soft) before beating Zaajer by a comfortable 1½l at Ascot (7f, good). Beat All can count himself unlucky to have run into Auction House on his debut last year. He made no mistake when subsequently beating Thrust 2l in a Chepstow maiden (7f, good to soft) and looks a smart performer in the making. Swan Knight, a $600,000 yearling, won a division of the Wood Ditton Stakes here (1m) on his racecourse debut, beating Manndar a short-head. Silver Robin finished a ½l second of 20 Ettrick in a Doncaster maiden (7f, good to soft) on his only start last year.



TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
R Flower	3	12	25.0	K Fallon	25	97	25.8
H Cecil	26	105	24.8	L Dettori	39	178	21.9
J Gosden	25	128	19.5	R Hills	26	120	21.7
S bin Suroor	6	31	19.4	Pat Eddery	35	185	18.9
J Dunlop	21	127	16.5	J Quinn	10	57	17.5
B Hanbury	11	69	15.9	G Hind	4	27	14.8
L Cumani	18	120	15.0	T Sprake	6	42	14.3
R Guest	5	35	14.3	S Sanders	8	58	13.8
P Walwyn	3	21	14.3	G Carter	8	65	12.3
C Wall	4	32	12.5	Dane O'Neill	8	65	12.3



Quinn tops

RICHARD QUINN completed a 796-1 four-timer from just four rides on Seazun (7-2), Mansa Musa (13-2), Caernarfon Bay (8-1) and Mutabassir (13-8) at Brighton yesterday.

The first two were trained by Mick Channon, whose assistant, Ray White, said: "He could win on a rusty bike the way he is riding." Quinn has now ridden 34 winners this season.

3.10 SAGITTA JOCKEY CLUB STAKES C4

(Group II: £34,200: 1m 4f) (11 runners)

301 (7) 46221- SILVER PATRIARCH 194 (D,F,G,S) (P Winfield) J Dunlop 5-9-0 ... Pat Eddery 120
302 (9) 61302- POSIDONAS 194 (CD,F,G,S) (A Christodoulou) P Cole 7-8-12 ... J Fortune 115
303 (5) 4/123- CHIST 174 (S) (Mrs J Bailey) M Tompkins 4-8-9 ... S Drowne 43
304 (4) 114- MARCUS MAXIMUS 196 (F,G) (W Said) H Cecil 4-8-9 ... W Ryan 110
305 (2) /144-6 PEAK PATH 13 (S) (Lord Weinstock) Sir M Stoute 4-8-9 ... M J Kinane 112
306 (3) 1613-4 PERSIAN PUNCH 13 (C,F,G,S) (J Smith) D Elsworth 6-8-9 ... T Quinn 119
307 (8) 11122- RABAH 216 (BF,D,F,G) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 4-8-9 ... R Hills
308 (10) 16415- TA-LIM 230 (D,F,G) (H al-Maktoum) Sir M Stoute 4-8-9 ... L Dettori 116
309 (6) 2/02-2 BORGIA 48 (BF,D,G) (Gestut Ammerland) A Fabre (Fr) 5-8-6 ... O Peslier –
310 (1) 41232- KADAKA 233 (G) (H R H Aga Khan) L Cumani 4-8-6 ... G Mosse 127
311 (11) /1315- SILVER RHAPSODY 181 (BF,C,D,G,S) (Lordship Stud) H Cecil 4-8-6 ... K Fallon 127

BETTING: 4-1 Borgia, 5-1 Silver Patriarch, 6-1 Rabah, 7-1 Peak Path, Silver Rhapsody, 15-2 Persian Punch, 8-1 Posidonas, Ta-Lim, 10-1 Kadaka, 25-1 Marcus Maximus, 33-1 Chist.

1998: ROMANOV 4-8-9 J Reid (5-1) P Chapple-Hyam 8 ran

SILVER PATRIARCH has to concede weight all round and would arguably be better suited by a longer trip or softer ground, but his class can pull him through. The 1997 Derby runner-up, who went on to win the St Leger, used this race as a stepping stone towards the the Coronation Cup (which he won at the expense of Swain with Posidonas back in sixth) last year and failed by only a neck to concede 5lb to Romanov. He can go one better this time, especially as Rabah, his front-running stablemate, will ensure a proper gallop. Persian Punch (4th) and Peak Path (6th) were not disgraced behind Sadian, another Dunlop inmate, in the John Porter Stakes at Newbury (1m 4f, good to firm) this month. They are both dangers although they will definitely be seen to better advantage over farther, a remark that applies to Ta-Lim and Kadaka. Silver Rhapsody would be a threat if reproducing the form she showed when running away with the Princess Royal Stakes at Ascot (1m 4f, soft) in October but she has shown a preference for easy going. Marcus Maximus, is upped in class along with Chist, while Borgia, 1½l second to Barbola at Saint-Cloud (1m 2f, soft) on her return, has not been easy to train since her promising three-year-old campaign.

3.40 H & K COMMISSIONS (BOOKMAKERS) HANDICAP [SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] C4

(3-Y-O: £7,616: 7f) (15 runners)

401 (6) 215- GUDLAGE 215 (CD,F) (H Salem) B Hanbury 9-7 ... W Ryan 75
402 (11) 1052-5 TOUGH GUY 17 (CD,F,S) (Sodo Ltd R Milsom) M Jarvis 9-3 ... P Robinson
403 (7) 5024-0 RED DELIRIUM 17 (V,F) (T Neill) R Hannon 9-1 ... T Quinn 102
404 (8) 513- ESTERAAD 226 (G) (K Alsayegh) J Dunlop 9-1 ... R Hills 82
405 (1) 3145-6 POLES APART 22 (F) (Flint Fairyhouse Partnership) M Tompkins 9-0 ... S Drowne 93
406 (12) 132- ELM DUST 199 (D,F) (Hesmonds Stud) J Dunlop 9-0 ... R Hughes 82
407 (13) 013-0 ZIPPERGATE 27 (S) (W Gredley) B Hills 9-0 ... M Hills 90
408 (4) 4155-0 SLUMBERING 14 (G) (Mrs C Painting) B Meehan 8-12 ... Pat Eddery 82
409 (9) 00-1 SURPRISE ENCOUNTER 25 (D,G) (A Ali) E Dunlop 8-12 ... K Fallon 84
410 (10) 021-0 BOUND FOR PLEASURE 29 (D,S) (Action) G L Moore 8-9 ... J Fortune 98
411 (3) 2340-2 BLACK SILK 17 (S Fustok) C Wall 8-7 ... G Hind 93
412 (5) 4108-4 TOP ORDER 15 (S) (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 8-6 ... A Nicholls (5) 95
413 (14) 024-05 ACHILLES STAR 18 (G,S) (Achilles International) K Burke 8-3 ... J Quinn 90
414 (15) 000-0 SKY OF HOPE 15 (Lucayan Stud) R Hannon 8-1 ... G Carter 78
415 (2) 00-0 ARABIAN MOON 15 (S Suhail) C Brittain 7-11 ... A Polli (3) 73

BETTING: 3-1 Surprise Encounter, 5-1 Black Silk, 8-1 Esteraad, Gudlage, 12-1 Achilles Star, Top Order, Tough Guy, Zippergate, 14-1 Elm Dust, Poles Apart, 16-1 Sky Of Hope, Slumbering, 20-1 others.

1998: JILA 9-3 R Hills (11-8 fav) R Armstrong 14 ran

Black Silk shaped like a surefire future winner when finishing 1½l second to Billy McCaw in a similar handicap to this over course and distance at the last meeting — running on strongly having missed the break and been poorly drawn. He should again account for Tough Guy, who was nearly 6l further back in fifth that day, as well as Red Delirium, who was a well-beaten twelfth. However, whether he has the speed to cope with SURPRISE ENCOUNTER (nap) is another matter. Ed Dunlop's charge displayed fine acceleration when beating Border Prince (has run well again in defeat since at Epsom) on his reappearance at Kempton (7f), and does not look overburdened on his handicap bow. Esteraad, winner of a maiden at Nottingham last July, is the type to pay her way this term and looks the pick of the two John Dunlop runners. Gudlage, unsuited by the soft ground when disappointing in the Royal Lodge at Ascot in September, looks up against it under his big weight on his return although Zippergate, unsuited by the course when failing to fire on his comeback at Kempton, warrants respect. Slumbering and Top Order look the pick of the rest.

4.15 DAHLIA STAKES (Listed race; £12,320: 1m 110yd) (8 runners)

501 (5) 5306-4 PUTUNA 8 (S) (R Hitchins) I Balding 4-8-12 ... K Fallon
502 (2) 14000- BOBBYDAZZLE 208 (D,G,S) (Mrs B Cohen) Dr J Scargill 4-8-9 ... J Quinn 90
503 (4) 011- KELD 210 (D,F,G) (C I T Racing Ltd) J Fanshawe 4-8-9 ... R Cochrane 106
504 (1) 1- MARIA ISABELLA 190 (D,S) (G Leigh) L Cumani 4-8-9 ... L Dettori 60
505 (7) 31600- MILLING 202 (S) (C Mills) R Guest 4-8-9 ... D Holland 116
506 (6) 16-340 PRIMARY COLOURS 25 (D,S) (Saracen Racing) J Pearce 4-8-9 ... R Price 89
507 (3) 22600- RICH IN LOVE 197 (F) (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 5-8-9 ... T Quinn 108
508 (8) 0 WARS 17 (BF) (K Mercer) J Banks 4-8-9 ... O Peslier –

BETTING: 11-10 Keld, 7-2 Maria Isabella, 9-2 Putuna, 10-1 Milling, Rich In Love, 20-1 Wars, 33-1 Bobbydazzle, Primary Colours.

1998: YABINT EL SULTAN 4-8-9 R Cochrane (9-2) B McMahon 8 ran

Putuna, 5¼l fourth of 12 to Chief Cashier in a handicap at Epsom (1m 2f 18yd, soft), represents solid form and is one of those more favourably treated by the conditions. The doubt is whether she is as effective on this quicker ground — she lacks a bit of pace and could be beaten for speed — but she remains one of the more likely answers. Preference is for KELD, who beat Wind Venture 2l in a stakes race here (1m, good) last autumn, in the process suggesting there is more to come. Her stable has made a good start to the season. Maria Isabella is another lightly raced type to appeal. Her defeat of Tumbleweed Hero by a neck in a maiden at Nottingham (1m 54yd, soft) is nothing special, but if her breeding is any guide — she is a half-sister to the top-class Hector Protector and Bosra Sham — plenty of improvement could be forthcoming. Bobbydazzle and Primary Colours are handicappers with quite a bit to find, although Rich In Love, 11l seventh to Lady In Waiting in a listed stakes here (1m 2f, good), is a possible outsider. Milling was 24l last of seven to Silver Rhapsody in a group three race at Ascot (1m 4f, soft), while Wars steps up hugely in class.

4.50 PORTLAND LODGE MAIDEN STAKES

(3-Y-O: £4,760: 7f) (15 runners)

601 (7) 0- AEGEAN GLORY 206 (Theobalds Stud) C Brittain 8-11 ... P Robinson –
602 (8) ALPENGLOW (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-11 ... O Peslier –
603 (2) BELLEME (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-11 ... A Garth –
604 (1) 04- COMPTON ANGEL 206 (E Penser) G A Butler 8-11 ... K Fallon 72
605 (6) DARA DANCER (King Size Racing) P Howling 8-11 ... J Quinn –
606 (11) 0 EN SILENCE 16 (E Sifobe) J Noseda 8-11 ... Pat Eddery
607 (10) 62- GRACIOUS GIFT 206 (BF) (The Queen) R Hannon 8-11 ... R Hughes 81
608 (13) 5- HOUDINI'S HONEY 209 (Marchos Family) Sir M Stoute 8-11 ... M J Kinane 79
609 (4) 3- KAFHANEE 181 (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 8-11 ... L Dettori 49
610 (15) 0-0 MEGA 18 (Mystic Meg Ltd) M Tompkins 8-11 ... S Drowne 62
611 (14) 4- MISS SHEMA 228 (A Ali) B Hanbury 8-11 ... W Ryan 62
612 (5) PINK CRISTAL (D Clark) H Candy 8-11 ... C Rutter –
613 (3) 0 PURPLE FLAME 14 (Mrs B Sumner) C Horgan 8-11 ... R Hills 35
614 (9) 0- RIGGING 260 (R Hollingsworth) B Hills 8-11 ... M Hills 23
615 (12) 5 SARAH'S SONG 14 (Mrs S Roy) B Meehan 8-11 ... W J O'Connor 38



BETTING: 11-4 Kafhanee, 5-1 Alpenglow, Houdini's Honey, 7-1 En Silence, 8-1 Gracious Gift, 12-1 Belleme, Compton Angel, 14-1 others.

1998: DIGITALIZE 8-11 K Fallon (10-1) H Cecil 16 ran

Riding arrangements suggest Alpenglow, by Ezzoud, is the pick of the Gosden runners, but she faces a couple of promising types in Houdini's Honey and KAFHANEE. Houdini's Honey was 2¼l fifth to Georgette here (6f, good) and can be expected to come on for that experience, although she may not cope with Kafhanee, 4l third to Nouchkey here (7f, good to soft) when trained by David Loder and now with the formidable Godolphin team. En Silence was an encouraging 5l seventh to Cassandra Go here at Newmarket (7f, good), a race in which Wednesday's Ascot winner Insinuate finished third. Gracious Gift can be given a chance on her 2½l second to Emma Peel at Nottingham (6f 15yd, soft) — Compton Angel (levels) 3½l behind — but the remainder, although several of them have shown some ability, may struggle to cope with the principals.

5.20 NEWMARKET CHALLENGE WHIP (3-Y-O: 1m) (2 runners)

1 (2) 2-0 HOUGOUMONT 13 (Mrs P Walwyn) P Walwyn 9-0 ... Pat Eddery –
2 (1) SURVEILLANCE (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0 ... L Dettori –

BETTING: 2-7 Surveillance, 3-1 Hougoumont.

1998: RAJATI 9-0 Martin Dwyer (2-1) Mrs J Cecil 2 ran

SURVEILLANCE, a half-brother to three winners, including the useful stayer Latahaab, gets the vote by default. He will not have to be out of the ordinary to beat Hougoumont, 29l twelfth to Alrassaam at Newbury (1m, good to firm) and previously beaten 5l in a match with Devil's Imp here (7f, good).

MEETING POINTS

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE GOING TODAY

MUSSELBURGH
Flat, 7-race card
1st race: 2.15
Winning favourites: 40.9%
Long-distance travellers: Chakra (2.15), Flying Pennant (5.00), Priory Gardens (5.30), 357 miles

EARLY BIRD
Best value this morning
Silver Patriarch
11/2 with the Tote (Newmarket 3.10)

SEDGEFIELD
Jumps, 6-race card
1st race: 5.35
Winning favourites: 37.0%
Long-distance traveller: Mumuqa (6.35), 259 miles

BANGOR
Jumps, 6-race card
1st race: 5.50
Winning favourites: 36.4%
Long-distance travellers: Dacelo (6.20), Fearless Wonder (6.50), 194 miles

NEWMARKET
Flat, 7-race card
1st race: 2.05
Winning favourites: 35.7%
Long-distance travellers: Miracle Island (2.05), Persian Punch (3.10), 154 miles
TV: C4. 2.05-3.40

FOLKESTONE
Jumps, 7-race card
1st race: 2.25
Winning favourites: 40.0%
Long-distance traveller: Irish Sea (3.30), 228 miles

Underfoot conditions: Standard, Hard, Firm, Good, Soft, Heavy

See racecards for detailed going

FOLKESTONE

ROB WRIGHT

2.25 Go Positive
3.00 Stormy Session
3.30 Inclination
4.05 High Gale
4.40 Idiotic
5.10 Machiavelli
5.40 El Monty

Carl Evans: 4.40 Idiotic.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.25 ROMNEY MARSH JUVENILE MAIDEN HURDLE

(4-Y-O: £2,265: 2m 1f 110yd) (11 runners)

1 56 ELAANDO 10 Mrs M Jones 11-0 ... D Byrne
2 FAR-SO-LA 6F Mrs L Jewell 11-0 ... Mr S Stronge (7)
3 03 GOLDSTAR 7 P Eccles 11-0 ... Mr N Fehily (7)
4 HICKORY 59F M Haynes 11-0 ... J Tizzard
5 OMAR'S ODYSSEY 57F P Mitchell 11-0 ... S Durack
6 0200 ZURYAF 7 (B) Mrs C Hicks 11-0 ... B Fenton
7 CHI-LIN 39F P Butler 10-9 ... M Batchelor (3)
8 4 GO POSITIVE 25 M Campion 10-9 ... D Leahy
9 0 LA PETITE FLAMECHE 17F R O'Sullivan 10-9 ... A Thornton
10 0 RELIABLY WON 8 D Marks 10-9 ... Sophie Mitchell
11 0P WIZADORA 27 I Williams 10-9 ... L Corcoran (7)

11-4 Elaando, 7-2 Go Positive, 7-1 Goldstar, 8-1 Hickory, 10-1 Far-So-La, Omar's Odyssey, La Petite Flameche, 12-1 others.

3.00 EAST WEAR BAY NOVICES CHASE

(£2,768: 3m 2f) (7)

1 1F53 HI HEDLEY 25 (F,G,S) G Hubbard 9-11-10 ... Michael Brennan
2 U22U WOODLANDS BEAU 8 (BF,F,G,S) R Alner 7-11-10 ... DOUBTFUL
3 UF4P GREY GORDEN 27 (G,S) T McGovern 11-11-4 ... C Murray (7)
4 2PP2 MERRY SHOT 25 (B,G) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-4 ... A Thornton
5 -P24 MR MILLER 67 (S) T Casey 7-11-4 ... R Widger (3)
6 -2PP STORMY SESSION 17 (B) P Nicholls 9-11-4 ... J Tizzard
7 PP65 THE BIZZO 149 J Panvert 8-10-13 ... T Peoples (7)

6-4 Merry Shot, 3-1 Stormy Session, 4-1 Hi Hedley, 6-1 Mr Miller, 20-1 Grey Gorden, The Bizzo.

3.30 BIDDENDEN SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

(£1,660: 2m 1f 110yd) (15)

1 30-0 O'GARNEY PARK 92F P Mitchell 5-12-0 ... S Durack
2 0605 GLOWING PATH 25 (CD,F,G,S) R Hodges 9-11-5 ... J Tizzard
3 P326 INCLINATION 9 (CD,S) Mrs L Jewell 5-10-13 ... Mr S Stronge (7)
4 0550 MULTI FRANCHISE 13 (D,S) Mrs L Jewell 6-10-11 ... M Griffiths (5)
5 5601 IRISH SEA 7 (D,G) B Llewellyn 6-10-10 (6ex) ... Mr J L Llewellyn
6 -2PP SHANUKE 4 S Woodman 7-10-9 ... B Fenton
7 2550 LUCY TUFTY 25 (D,F,G) G Prodromou 8-10-6 ... Michael Brennan
8 600 WHERE'S ALBERT 53 J R Poulton 4-10-4 ... A Thornton
9 530- BLURRED IMAGE 429 J C Poulton 8-10-3 ... M Batchelor (3)
10 -006 LITTLE NOD 25 (D,F) J R Best 10-10-0 ... L Cummins (3)
11 00P FALKENBERG 27 (T) B Pearce 4-10-0 ... L Aspell
12 06-0 KIROV PROTEGE 189 R Dean 7-10-0 ... T Dascombe
13 0PP0 DETACHMENT 23 Miss Z Davison 6-10-0 ... D O'Sullivan (7)
14 -0PU WHISKY WILMA 27 D Grissell 7-10-0 ... J Goldstein (3)
15 FP-P PARAMOUNT LEADER 300 D Marks 7-10-0 ... Sophie Mitchell

7-2 Glowing Path, 5-1 Irish Sea, 6-1 Inclination, Lucy Tufty, 7-1 Shanuke, 10-1 Where's Albert, Little Nod, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Jones, 3 winners from 7 runners, 42.9%; N Henderson, 10 from 25, 40.0%; P Winkworth, 3 from 8, 37.5%; P R Webber, 3 from 16, 18.8%; D Grissell, 12 from 65, 18.5%; T McGovern, 4 from 22, 18.2%.

JOCKEYS: B Fenton, 7 winners from 51 rides, 13.7%; J R Kavanagh, 7 from 59, 11.9%. Only qualifiers.

4.05 SEDDLESCOMBE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£2,898: 2m) (10)

1 -FF1 HIGH GALE 22 (D,F) P Nicholls 7-12-0 ... J Tizzard
2 542R ZAHID 25 (D,F) K Burke 8-11-13 ... B Fenton
3 454U VIKING ROD 25 (G) M Wilkinson 7-11-11 ... D Byrne
4 3253 REVERSE THRUST 25 (F) P Hedger 8-11-9 ... P Holley
5 43F0 HEAD FOR HEAVEN 16 (S) R Hoad 9-11-7 ... J R Kavanagh
6 -P13 DEEP REFRAIN 46 (G,S) R Phillips 9-11-0 ... A Thornton
7 /P5P ATOURS 36 (B,D,F,G,S) Miss A Newton-Smith 11-10-7 ... J Goldstein (3)
8 50PP CEANNAIRE 8 (B,G) P Winkworth 9-10-2 ... D Leahy
9 -PFP SISTER ALI 13 B Pearce 7-10-0 ... M Batchelor (3)
10 F646 CALVARO 15 J Gifford 8-10-0 ... L Aspell

2-1 High Gale, 4-1 Reverse Thrust, 6-1 Head For Heaven, 8-1 Zahid, Deep Refrain, 10-1 Viking Rod, Calvaro, 16-1 others.

4.40 SOUTH EAST POINT TO POINT SUPPORTERS CLUB HUNTERS CHASE (£1,123: 3m 2f) (7)

1 -234 BRAES OF MAR 13 (F,G,S) N Henderson 9-12-7 ... Mr M Foley (7)
2 /514 IDIOTIC 22 (F,G,S) P Chamings 11-12-7 ... Mr C Vigors
3 P-6U RED RORY 30 (C,G) Mrs D McCarthy 10-12-7 ... Mr B Hitchcott (7)
4 1231 CARDINAL GAYLE 13P (F,S) Miss L Alner 9-12-0 ... Ms D Harding (7)
5 5122 COMMASARRIS 19P (BF,G,S) Miss M Howe 7-12-0 ... Mr P Blagg (7)
6 PUDU YOUNG NIMROD 12P (T,F,S) Mrs D Grissell 12-12-0 ... Mr P Hacking
7 1-25 STALBRIDGE GOLD 22 (F,G,S) J Dufosee 10-11-9 ... Miss S Vickery (3)

6-4 Idiotic, 3-1 Braes Of Mar, 7-2 Cardinal Gayle, 7-1 Commasarris, 10-1 Stalbridge Gold, 25-1 Red Rory, 33-1 Young Nimrod.

5.10 PEDLINGE HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,184: 2m 1f 110yd) (13)

1 212- NORTHERN FLEET 567 (BF,F) Mrs A Perrett 6-12-0 ... R Widger (5)
2 2201 TISSUE OF LIES 13 (D,G,S) J Akehurst 6-11-13 ... A Thornton
3 1435 TIME FOR ACTION 36 (T,BF,D,G,S) C Mann 7-11-11 ... Mr N Fehily (7)
4 4250 TRUANCY 30 (F,G) S Woodman 6-11-11 ... Mr S Stronge (7)
5 5661 MACHIAVELLI 38 (F,G) G L Moore 5-11-6 ... M Batchelor (3)
6 442- GLOBAL DANCER 557 (G) L Wells 8-11-1 ... O Burrows (5)
7 2/2- LIVELY ENCOUNTER 580 (S) Mrs M Jones 8-11-1 ... D Byrne
8 0441 ZINE LANE 22 (D,F,G) I Williams 7-10-12 ... L Corcoran (7)
9 0303 MELTON MADE 27 (T) G Hubbard 6-10-7 ... Michael Brennan
10 5000 BOLD KING 13 (S) Mrs L Jewell 4-10-4 ... M Ahern
11 2104 ROBORANT 9F (S) J Akehurst 4-10-4 ... S Durack
12 F804 HURRICANE JANE 27 M J Roberts 7-10-2 ... C Rafter (7)
13 0P05 OLABUD 53 J Gifford 7-10-0 ... L Aspell

7-2 Machiavelli, 4-1 Tissue Of Lies, 5-1 Zine Lane, 6-1 Time For Action, 10-1 Northern Fleet, 12-1 Truancy, Global Dancer, Lively Encounter, 14-1 others.

5.40 CANTERBURY STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,483: 2m 1f 110yd) (13)

1 5 BEREWOLF 30 J Gifford 5-11-4 ... L Aspell
2 CAPTAIN STUART I Williams 5-11-4 ... L Corcoran (7)
3 CHOP-CHOP S Sherwood 5-11-4 ... J Tizzard
4 4 GILBERT WHITE 37 C Mann 6-11-4 ... C Rafter (7)
5 0P JUST A TAD 8 (B) T D McCarthy 6-11-4 ... O Burrows (5)
6 PHANTOM BAY A H Harvey 5-11-4 ... R Widger (5)
7 005 SUPREME IRONY 48 M J Roberts 6-11-4 ... T Peoples (7)
8 00 THE PUFFIN MAN 30 N Henderson 6-11-4 ... J R Kavanagh
9 GENTLE DRIFTER N Chance 5-10-13 ... S Durack
10 2 EL MONTY 42 R Alner 4-10-12 ... A Thornton
11 MIDNIGHT EMPEROR Mrs J Pitman 4-10-12 ... B Clifford
12 20 MISTER GRAHAM 69 (BF) P R Webber 4-10-12 ... B Fenton
13 DAUNTLESS GIRL Mrs A Hamilton-Fairley 4-10-7 ... D Leahy

3-1 El Monty, 7-2 Midnight Emperor, 6-1 Berewolf, 7-1 Gilbert White, 8-1 Chop-Chop, 12-1 Gentle Drifter, Mister Graham, 14-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Bangor: 5.50 Brumalis, Grasp The Nettle, 6.20 Royrace. **Folkestone:** 3.00 Stormy Session. **Musselburgh:** 5.00 Sheer Warning, 5.30 Erupt. **Newmarket:** 3.40 Red Delirium.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Redcar

Going: good to soft, soft in places

2.20 (5f) 1, **Toppo's Gem** (J Fanning, 8-1); 2, College Maid (10-1); 3, Jacques Reply (7-1). Commonwood 4-1 fav. 17 ran. Hd, 1½l. K Ryan. Tote: £11.70; £2.50, £3.80, £5.50. DF: £78.10. CSF: £76.40.

2.50 (1m 1f) 1, **Ollie's Chuckle** (S Finnamore, 16-1); 2, Swampy (6-1); 3, Starfinder (50-1). Quintrell Downs (5th) 4-1 fav. 15 ran. NR: Susy Wells. Hd, nk. J Quinn. Tote: £24.80; £12.70, £2.90, £11.90. DF: £36.10. CSF: £104.47. Tricast: £2,708.44.

3.20 (7f) 1, **Persian Fayre** (J Carroll, 5-1); 2, Guisborough (7-1); 3, Birchwood Sun (4-1 fav). 18 ran. 5l, 1l. J Berry. Tote: £4.70; £2.60, £2.30, £1.90. DF: £31.90. CSF: £35.62.

3.50 (5f) 1, **Whizz Kid** (C Carver, 4-1 fav); 2, Dominelle (12-1); 3, D'Marti (9-2). 10 ran. NR: Flying The Flag. 2½l, nk. J Bradley. Tote: £4.90; £1.90, £4.30, £1.50. DF: £56.50. CSF: £47.03. Tricast: £203.83.

4.20 (7f) 1, **Northern Spring** (K Darley, 13-8); 2, Nabonassar (11-8 fav); 3, Cinnamon Lady (25-1). 18 ran. 1l, 4l. M Heaton-Ellis. Tote: £2.50; £1.10, £1.20, £2.20. DF: £2.30. CSF: £3.51.

4.50 (1m 3f) 1, **Fatehalkhair** (J McAuley, 11-2); 2, Manful (14-1); 3, Dr Woodstock (12-1); 4, Girlie Set (5-2 fav). 17 ran. ½l, ½l. B Ellison. Tote: £6.50; £1.90, £2.60, £4.20, £1.10. DF: £46.10. CSF: £86.50. Tricast: £872.47.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £69,156.28 carried forward to Newmarket today).

Placepot: £206.20. Quadpot: £9.90.

Brighton

Going: good, becoming good to firm

2.00 (5f 59yd) 1, **Seazun** (T Quinn, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, Blue Velvet (33-1); 3, Cedar Master (16-1). Ignite 7-2 jt-fav. 14 ran. NR: Russian Fox. 2½l, ½l. M Channon. Tote: £5.30; £2.70, £6.30, £4.30. DF: £65.90. CSF: £132.76.

2.30 (5f 59yd) 1, **Celtic Venture** (P Doe, 33-1); 2, Johnny Staccato (11-1); 3, Mangus (7-4 fav). 12 ran. 1½l, hd. Julian Poulton. Tote: £26.70; £6.10, £2.30, £1.30. DF: £157.00. CSF: £317.59.

3.00 (1m 3f 196yd) 1, **Caernarfon Bay** (T Quinn, 8-1; **Rob Wright's nap**); 2, Pay Homage (14-1); 3, Maitreya (20-1); 4, Hurgill Dancer (25-1). Admirals Secret 7-2 fav. 17 ran. NR: Forbes Park. Hd, 1l. G L Moore. Tote: £7.80; £2.40, £3.00, £5.50, £4.20. DF: £48.20. CSF: £99.51. Tricast: £1,997.61.

3.30 (7f 214yd) 1, **Mansa Musa** (T Quinn, 13-2); 2, Sky Dome (15-8 fav); 3, Grand Slam (7-1). 7 ran. ½l, 2l. M Channon. Tote: £8.90; £3.10, £1.60. DF: £13.80. CSF: £16.66. After a stewards' inquiry, Bold Oriental, who finished second, was disqualified and placed last.

4.00 (5f 213yd) 1, **Alpen Wolf** (Martin Dwyer, 10-1); 2, Uplifting (9-1); 3, Myttons Mistake (10-1). Newlands Corner 11-2 fav. 13 ran. NR: Mutasawwar. Hd, sh hd. W Muir. Tote: £12.20; £2.70, £2.20, £3.10. DF: £59.50. CSF: £88.01. Tricast: £875.72.

4.30 (1m 1f 209yd) 1, **Lamerie** (Dane O'Neill, 100-30); 2, Lucky Gitano (4-7 fav); 3, Sharh (6-1). 8 ran. 1½l, hd. R Hannon. Tote: £4.40; £1.50, £1.10, £1.60. DF: £1.90. CSF: £5.20.

5.00 (7f 214yd) 1, **Mellors** (K Fallon, 9-2 fav); 2, Prospector's Cove (5-1); 3, Moon At Night (12-1). 14 ran. NR: Crested Knight. 1l, ¾l. M Heaton-Ellis. Tote: £6.00; £2.10, £1.80, £4.10. DF: £10.30. CSF: £22.65. Tricast: £235.90.

5.30 (7f 214yd) 1, **Mutabassir** (T Quinn, 13-8 fav); 2, Ardent (12-1); 3, Clonoe (16-1). 15 ran. 8l, 1l. G L Moore. Tote: £2.50; £1.50, £3.30, £7.80. DF: £21.60. CSF: £22.28. Tricast: £253.70.

Placepot: £454.80.

Quadpot: £71.70.

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

2.10 (5f) 1, **Richard Anodell** (J Quinn, 100-30); 2, Kirsch (11-4 fav); 3, Diamond Olivia (14-1). 11 ran. ½l, 1½l. N Littmoden. Tote: £4.80; £3.60, £1.80, £4.10. DF: £12.60. CSF: £12.73.

2.40 (6f) 1, **River Ensign** (Miss K Rockey, 5-1); 2, Grand Estate (6-4 fav); 3, Ivor's Deed (6-1). 11 ran. 1½l, 5l. W Brisbourne. Tote: £6.20; £1.40, £1.50, £1.70. DF: £8.30. CSF: £11.57.

3.10 (6f) 1, **Night Life** (J Quinn, evens fav; **Our Newmarket correspondent's nap**); 2, Guest of Honour (7-1); 3, Polly Mills (5-1). 10 ran. NR: Risky Valentine. Hd, 5l. M Bell. Tote: £1.50; £1.20, £1.50, £1.80. DF: £7.00. CSF: £8.31. Tricast: £25.96.

3.40 (6f) 1, **Takhlid** (Miss R Clark, 4-5 fav); 2, Palacegate Touch (11-4); 3, Little Ibnr (7-1). 11 ran. 5l, 3½l. D Chapman. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £1.10, £2.00. DF: £2.00. CSF: £2.73.

4.10 (5f) 1, **Dil** (Dean McKeown, 4-1 fav); 2, Consultant (8-1); 3, Mukarrab (11-1). 13 ran. 1l, ¾l. Mrs N Macauley. Tote: £5.30; £1.50, £5.70, £3.10. DF: £40.50. Tote Trifecta: £1,244.50. CSF: £35.70. Tricast: £253.08.

4.40 (1m 1f 79yd) 1, **West U There** (P M Quinn, 13-2); 2, Nathan's Hero (6-1); 3, Lesale (12-1). Billichang (4th) 2-1 fav. 9 ran. 2l, ½l. R Hollinshead. Tote: £5.50; £1.40, £3.50, £1.90. DF: £13.70. CSF: £43.35.

5.10 (1m 4f) 1, **Sunny Chief** (G Duffield, 5-2 fav); 2, Netherhall (10-1); 3, Jane Ann (12-1). 11 ran. 5l, 11l. Sir Mark Prescott. Tote: £3.10; £1.10, £5.00, £4.20. DF: £58.00. CSF: £32.10. Tricast: £262.38.

Placepot: £37.20.

Quadpot: £9.00.

RACING

Godolphin looks to Mukhalif for classic boost

By Chris McGrath

GODOLPHIN begins a momentous weekend by entrusting its royal blue standard to Mukhalif at Newmarket today. However the pioneers of Dubai fare in the Kentucky Derby tomorrow, time may reveal this colt as a most auspicious choice to lead their 1999 cavalry onto the European stage. He makes the short journey from his new base at Moulton Paddocks to the July Course, where he could earn a crack at the very race that first inspired — among countless paler imitations — the "Run For The Roses".

Mukhalif, 20-1 with Coral for the Vodafone Derby, revealed the giant strides he has made over the winter in the Godolphin colts' trial at Nad *Al Sheba 20 days ago. Uncompromised* by the stamina in his pedigree, he mustered enough pace to chase home Island Sands over a mile. His *performance in the Green* Ridge Stables Newmarket Stakes, then, will be anxiously monitored by Sheikh Mohammed in Churchill Downs. For Mukhalif, who won both his starts with David Loder last season, must not only demonstrate his Epsom credentials. *He must also preserve the rather* more imminent classic ambitions of Island Sands in the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas.

Island Sands is one of 17 final declarations for the race tomorrow, leaving punters to seek any draw advantage *from today's proceedings. The* Guineas meeting only visits the July Course because of reconstruction at its usual home on the Rowley Mile, so it is hard to predict whether Commander Collins, for instance, will be helped or hindered by starting nearest the stands' rail, in stall No 17. Nick Lees, clerk of the course, is adamant that there will be no advantage. "The July Course is divid*ed into two," he said.* "We used the far side at the Craven Meeting but now we're switching to the stands' side, which is all fresh ground. The stalls will *be in the centre and should* nearly fill across, as the safety limit is not much higher at 23.

"The ground hasn't been watered, which is what usual*ly causes an advantage. Nor is* there any Tarmac in the enclosures, from which water could run onto the stands' side, and the trees are too far from the rail to shelter the other side."

If Lees is right, the field may well split into two and the draw advantage will be re*duced to the company kept by* each horse. Island Sands, who starts from stall No 3, might conceivably find a lead from his stablemate, Easaar, in No 4. The front-running Auction House is not far away in No 6, providing an ideal tow for *Compton Admiral in No* 7. Many of those drawn in double figures, however, are likely to be held up in a cluster: notably Enrique (10), Orpen (11), Exeat (12) and Mujahid (13). Their riders will be anxious not to become marooned.

Mujahid's trainer, John Dunlop, runs both Rabah and Silver Patriarch in the Sagitta Jockey Club Stakes today. Silver Patriarch, beaten a neck *on his reappearance last year*, is again likely to show the benefit of this outing in the Vodafone Coronation Cup. André Fabre hopes to consol*idate his fine Newmarket* record through Borgia.

MUSSELBURGH

ROB WRIGHT

2.15 Chakra — 3.55 Nifty Major
2.45 Ryefield — 4.25 Lady Rachel
5.00 Aberkeen
3.20 Indiana Princess — 5.30 Garnock Valley

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 5F, LOW BEST SIS

2.15 COME TROTTING IN AUGUST AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (£2,836: 5f) (17 runners)

1 (11) 4002 PALACEGATE JACK 29 (B,CD,F,G,S) J Berry 8-12-0 E Babington (5) 42
2 (8) 0-50 JOHAYRO 15 (BF,CD,F,G,S) J Goldie 6-11-12 J Goldie (7) 48
3 (10) 0-00 JUST BOB 9 (CD,F,G,S) S Kettlewell 10-11-12 P Griffiths (7) 47
4 (16) 05-0 MON BRUCE 15 (D,F) M Dods 5-11-11 A Evans (3) 40
5 (14) 2641 SILK COTTAGE 25 (B,CD,F,G) R Bastiman 7-11-9 Miss R Bastiman (7) 39
6 (17) 000- IMPALDI 223 B Ellison 4-11-8 Miss L Hanson (7) –
7 (1) 00-0 PENNILESS 6 (D,G,S) N Tinkler 4-11-6 N J Tinkler (7) 38
8 (9) 540- BLAZING IMP 246 (CD,F) Mrs J Jordan 6-11-6 O Fagan (5) 36
9 (4) 36-0 CHAKRA 25 (D,F,G) J Bradley 5-11-5 Miss R Clark [illegible]
10 (12) 500- IMPERIAL HONEY 213 Mrs A Swinbank 4-11-4 Miss Beverley Kendall (5) 37
11 (7) 0-00 SANS RIVALE 15 (CD,G,S) J Eyre 4-11-3 Miss D Jones 33
12 (5) 0-00 SWAN AT WHALLEY 15 (CD,G,S) K Ryan 7-11-2 Miss E Ramsden 43
13 (2) 0433 PRINCIPAL BOY 10 (G,S) Miss J Craze 6-11-2 P Childs (7) 41
14 (15) 1000 ANOTHER NIGHTMARE 14 (D,F,G,S) D Barker 7-10-9 Mrs C Williams (3) 45
15 (6) 0360 RENNYHOLME 55 (D) K Ryan 8-10-8 R Latham (5) 45
16 (3) 3204 KALAR 15 (B,D,F,G) D Chapman 10-10-7 Miss A Deniel (3) 34
17 (13) 06-0 PALLIUM 29 (B,T,CD,F,G) D Nolan 11-10-6 Miss D Carter (7) 39

7-2 Silk Cottage, 6-1 Palacegate Jack, 8-1 Johayro, Just Bob, 10-1 others.

2.45 MUSSELBURGH FAIR DAY RACES CLASSIFIED STAKES (£2,626: 1m) (6)

1 (5) 00-0 BOWCLIFFE 88 (CD,F,G) E Alston 8-9-6 W Supple 84
2 (3) 05/0 GENERAL ACADEMY 16 (G) M W Easterby 6-9-6 G Parkin –
3 (4) 400- RYEFIELD 174 (F) Miss L Perratt 4-9-6 J Carroll [illegible]
4 (1) 00/0 SANDABAR 25 (T,F) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-6 A Culhane 56
5 (2) 0-00 SUN DANCING 20 P Monteith 4-9-3 O Pears 75
6 (6) 05-6 AMAL JUMAIRAH 22 M Jarvis 3-8-6 M Tebbutt 54

7-4 Amal Jumairah, 7-2 Ryefield, 4-1 Bowcliffe, 6-1 Sandabar, 8-1 others.

3.20 HARNESS RACE MEETING OF THE YEAR AWARD CLAIMING STAKES (£2,262: 2m) (7)

1 (7) 5 SELECT EQUINAME 25 D Eddy 4-9-3 R FitzPatrick (5) 34
2 (6) 165- INDIANA PRINCESS 43J (F,G) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-2 A Culhane 64
3 (4) 220- BREYDON 228 (S) P Monteith 6-8-11 O Pears 55
4 (5) 501- SLASHER JACK 301 (C,F,G) K Ryan 8-8-11 A McCarthy (3) [illegible]
5 (2) 2444 MONACO GOLD 24 (D,F,S) D Cosgrove 7-8-9 M Tebbutt 65
6 (3) 800/ STAKIS CASINOS BOY 455J (F) B Ellison 5-8-9 T Williams –
7 (1) 055/ FANADIYR 49J J Goldie 7-8-7 W Supple –

6-4 Indiana Princess, 2-1 Slasher Jack, 7-1 Select Equiname, 8-1 others.

3.55 NEIL WYATT 1998 AWARD WINNERS MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,682: 5f) (8)

1 (6) 3 LITTLE CHRISTIAN 13 N Tinkler 9-0 J McAuley (7) [illegible]
2 (3) 6 NIFTY MAJOR 27 (BF) J Berry 9-0 K Darley 45
3 (1) RED REVOLUTION T Barron 9-0 W Supple –
4 (8) 6 TINSEL WHISTLE 18 M Jarvis 9-0 M Tebbutt 30
5 (2) YENALED J Goldie 9-0 A Culhane –
6 (5) BRANSTON LUCY T Etherington 8-9 O Pears –
7 (4) 5 JANICELAND 16 S Kettlewell 8-9 M Fenton 40
8 (7) 6 NATSMAGIRL 25 M Wane 8-9 J Carroll 34

15-8 Nifty Major, 7-2 Tinsel Whistle, 9-2 Janiceland, Little Christian, 10-1 others.

4.25 MUSSELBURGH AWARD WINNING TEAM HANDICAP (£3,977: 1m 4f) (9)

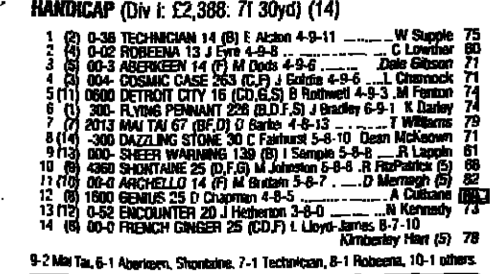
1 (1) 060- SILENTLY 174 (C,F,G,S) K Ryan 7-10-0 D Glennon (7) 78
2 (3) 30-0 RAFTING 11 (D,G) M Johnston 4-9-11 J Carroll 85
3 (7) 0-00 COLWAY RITZ 9 (G,S) W Storey 5-9-6 T Williams 87
4 (4) -002 LADY RACHEL 11 (D,F,S) J Eyre 4-8-9 R Lappin [illegible]
5 (6) 235 TERRAZZO 30 J FitzGerald 4-8-8 M Fenton 86
6 (9) 015- SING AND DANCE 177 (CD,G) E Weymes 6-7-12 P Fessey 89
7 (8) 0-04 BEAU ROBERTO 10 (F,S) J Goldie 5-7-10 L Charnock 88
8 (2) 5360 AMBIDEXTROUS 34 (CD,F,G) E Alston 7-7-10 W Supple 89
9 (5) 23-6 MARISOL 29 P Monteith 6-7-10 D Mernagh (5) 70

11-4 Lady Rachel, 9-2 Beau Roberto, 11-2 Silently, 6-1 Colway Ritz, 13-2 Rafting, 8-1 Sing And Dance, 10-1 Terrazzo, Ambidextrous, 25-1 Marisol.

5.00 TROTTING IS FUN AT MUSSELBURGH HANDICAP (Div I: £2,388: 7f 30yd) (14)

1 (2) 0-38 TECHNICIAN 14 (B) E Alston 4-9-11 W Supple 75
2 (4) 0-02 ROBEENA 13 J Eyre 4-9-8 C Lowther 80
3 (6) 00-3 ABERKEEN 14 (F) M Dods 4-9-6 Dale Gibson 71
4 (3) 004- COSMIC CASE 263 (C,F) J Goldie 4-9-6 L Charnock 71
5 (11) 0600 DETROIT CITY 16 (CD,G,S) B Rothwell 4-9-3 M Fenton 74
6 (1) 300- FLYING PENNANT 226 (B,D,F,S) J Bradley 6-9-1 K Darley 74
7 (7) 2013 MAI TAI 67 (BF,D) D Barker 4-8-13 T Williams 79
8 (14) -300 DAZZLING STONE 30 C Fairhurst 5-8-10 Dean McKeown 71
9 (13) 000- SHEER WARNING 139 (B) I Semple 5-8-8 R Lappin 61
10 (9) 4360 SHONTAINE 25 (D,F,G) M Johnston 6-8-8 R FitzPatrick (5) 88
11 (10) 00-0 ARCHELLO 14 (F) M Brittain 5-8-7 D Mernagh (5) 82
12 (8) 1600 GENIUS 25 D Chapman 4-8-5 A Culhane [illegible]
13 (12) 0-52 ENCOUNTER 20 J Hetherton 3-8-0 N Kennedy 73
14 (5) 00-0 FRENCH GINGER 25 (CD,F) L Lloyd-James 8-7-10 Kimberley Hart (5) 78

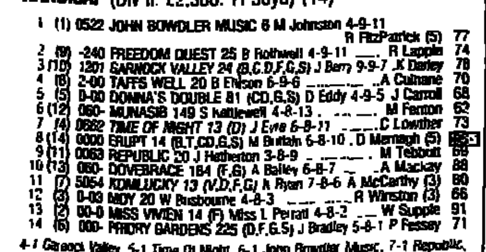
9-2 Mai Tai, 6-1 Aberkeen, Shontaine, 7-1 Technician, 8-1 Robeena, 10-1 others.



5.30 TROTTING IS FUN AT MUSSELBURGH HANDICAP (Div II: £2,388: 7f 30yd) (14)

1 (1) 0522 JOHN BOWDLER MUSIC 6 M Johnston 4-9-11 R FitzPatrick (5) 77
2 (9) -240 FREEDOM QUEST 25 B Rothwell 4-9-11 R Lappin 74
3 (10) 1201 GARNOCK VALLEY 24 (B,C,D,F,G,S) J Berry 9-9-7 K Darley 78
4 (8) 2-00 TAFFS WELL 20 B Ellison 6-9-6 A Culhane 70
5 (5) 0-00 DONNA'S DOUBLE 81 (CD,G,S) D Eddy 4-9-5 J Carroll 68
6 (12) 060- MUNASIB 149 S Kettlewell 4-8-13 M Fenton 62
7 (4) 0662 TIME OF NIGHT 13 (D) J Eyre 6-8-11 C Lowther 73
8 (14) 0000 ERUPT 14 (B,T,CD,G,S) M Brittain 6-8-10 D Mernagh (5) [illegible]
9 (11) 0063 REPUBLIC 20 J Hetherton 3-8-9 M Tebbutt 66
10 (13) 060- DOVEBRACE 184 (F,G) A Bailey 6-8-7 A Mackay 88
11 (7) 5054 KOMLUCKY 13 (V,D,F,G) K Ryan 7-8-6 A McCarthy (3) 80
12 (3) 0-03 MOY 20 W Busbourne 4-8-3 R Winston (3) 66
13 (2) 00-0 MISS VIVIEN 14 (F) Miss L Perratt 4-8-2 W Supple 91
14 (6) 000- PRIORY GARDENS 225 (D,F,G,S) J Bradley 5-8-1 P Fessey 71

4-1 Garnock Valley, 5-1 Time Of Night, 6-1 John Bowdler Music, 7-1 Republic, 8-1 Komlucky, 10-1 Donna's Double, Moy, 14-1 others.



COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T Etherington, 7 winners from 27 runners, 25.9%; J FitzGerald, 3 from 12, 25.0%; J Berry, 37 from 163, 22.7%; L Lloyd-James, 3 from 14, 21.4%; T Barron, 7 from 34, 20.6%; M W Easterby, 7 from 35, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: M Fenton, 8 winners from 27 rides, 29.6%; K Darley, 26 from 146, 17.8%; C Lowther, 6 from 34, 17.6%; A Culhane, 20 from 123, 16.3%; R Lappin, 9 from 60, 15.0%; J Carroll, 21 from 156, 13.5%.

SEDGEFIELD

ROB WRIGHT

5.35 Barley Meadow — 7.05 Coole Abbey
6.05 Topothenorthracing — 7.35 Galen
6.35 Heavy Hustler — 8.05 Lucky Master

Carl Evans: 7.05 Coole Abbey.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

5.35 JOHN N. DUNN HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,430: 2m 1f) (15 runners)

1 6006 MARAUD 11 (B,F,G) M Sowersby 5-12-0 M H Naughton (5)
2 006 MOLLINSBURN 76 Mrs M Reveley 8-11-9 Mr T Comerford (7)
3 0055 UNION TOWN 11 (B,D,G) V Thompson 5-11-8 Mr M Thompson
4 1233 ORIEL LAD 11 (CD,F,G) Miss K Milligan 6-11-6 Mr J Crowley (5)
5 5306 MISTER SANDROVITCH 24 (D,S) R Fahey 6-11-5 L Wyer
6 1243 BARLEY MEADOW 135 (V,T,G) R Ford 7-11-4 N Horrocks (3)
7 4022 FIRST IN THE FIELD 11 (S) N Mason 8-11-3 R Guest
8 F446 CINEMA PARADISO 105 N Richards 5-11-3 A Dobbin
9 3P4- SEAHAWK RETRIEVER 339 (D,F,S) S Chadwick 10-11-0 L Cooper (7)
10 0P24 DAMIEN'S CHOICE 7 (BF) P Eccles 7-10-12 M Scales (7)
11 0065 ATLANTIC POWER 6 W Storey 6-10-7 C McCormack (3)
12 0F60 NIGHT WINK 129F (T) Mrs V Ward 7-10-7 R Thornton
13 00P0 RATHURE 63 (F) J Curtis 7-10-7 O McPhail (5)
14 0F-P BALLYKISSANGEL 314 N Bycroft 6-10-0 G Lee
15 PPP0 SON OF TEMPO 60 (T) Mrs K Lamb 10-10-0 J Burke

4-1 Oriel Lad, 5-1 Mister Sandrovitch, 11-2 First In The Field, 8-1 Union Town, Damien's Choice, 10-1 Mollinsburn, Barley Meadow, Atlantic Power, 12-1 others.

6.05 JOHN WADE GROUP OF COMPANIES SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (FINAL) (£8,676: 2m 5f 110yd) (16)

1 00P1 MARCHANT MING 25 (B,G,S) H Alexander 7-12-0 N Bentley
2 5450 CHARITY CRUSADER 136 (B,CD,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-13 M H Naughton (5)
3 0-F0 ETERNAL CITY 21 (D,F,G) N Richards 8-11-9 A Dobbin
4 0436 DURANO 25 (B,S) T Easterby 8-11-7 C McCormack (3)
5 3561 TOPOTHENORTHRACING 25 (CD,F,G,S) P Beaumont 9-11-7 T Reed
6 4136 STRONG JOHN 167 (T,CD,F,G,S) M Sowersby 11-11-6 Mr J Crowley (5)
7 0023 NOBLE NORMAN 25 (G) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-5 Mr A Dempsey
8 6022 KAKASHDA 45 J Howard Johnson 8-11-3 L Cooper (7)
9 0001 PANOORAS LORD 25 (G) J Wainwright 5-11-1 D Parker
10 1033 LORD PAT 41 (C,S) Miss K Milligan 8-11-1 R Guest
11 3610 PALISANDER 23 (T,S) R Ford 5-10-13 N Horrocks (3)
12 8063 CAMBO 25 (CD,F,G,S) M Barnes 13-10-12 M Richards
13 0502 SAUCY NUN 21 (B,CD,F,G) P Hiatt 7-10-12 E Husband
14 2F00 HARKNESS WARRIOR 21 (T) H Alexander 5-10-11 W Dowling (5)
15 1003 CAMDEN FELLOW 45 (F) P Eccles 6-10-10 R Thornton
16 P-3F CAROL AGAIN 21 N Bycroft 7-10-10 G Lee

11-2 Topothenorthracing, 7-1 Lord Pat, 8-1 Strong John, Panooras Lord, 10-1 Charity Crusader, Noble Norman, Kakashda, Cambo, 12-1 others.

6.35 DDF FAIRS NOVICES CHASE (£3,254: 2m 5f) (13)

1 P210 HEAVY HUSTLER 11 (CD,F,S) J Howard Johnson 8-12-0 C McCormack (3)
2 00F0 CRAIGARY 6 (G) Mrs A Swinbank 8-11-0 J Supple
3 0000 DENTICULATA 25 (T,D,F,G,S) P Spottiswood 11-11-0 S Taylor
4 5600 EDSTONE 11 (B) J Curtis 7-11-0 O McPhail (5)
5 -0PP GREAT POTENTIAL 11 P Beaumont 7-11-0 B Grattan
6 6-04 JUST NED 21 J Haldane 8-11-0 B Storey
7 00P0 LARKSHILL 25 (T,S) J FitzGerald 8-11-0 L Wyer
8 P-PP LOTHIAN COMMODORE 49 N Richards 9-11-0 A Dobbin
9 4 MUMUQA 158 C Egerton 7-11-0 J A McCarthy
10 -34F PEPPER POT BOY 186 Mrs M Reveley 7-11-0 Mr A Dempsey
11 P05U QUIXALL CROSSETT 24 E Caine 14-11-0 Mr O Fagan
12 422/ MRS WUMPKINS 783P (G) D Smith 8-10-9 Mr M Coglan
13 1435 TAKEAMEMO 24 (T,S) O Sherwood 6-10-9 M Richards

7-4 Takeamemo, 3-1 Heavy Hustler, 4-1 Mumuqa, 9-2 Pepper Pot Boy, 16-1 others.

7.05 GUY CUNARD HUNTERS CHASE (£1,632: 2m 5f) (9)

1 -162 COOLE ABBEY 18 (BF,F,G) Mrs C Moore 7-12-7 Mr M Bradburne
2 424P PRIVATE JET 13 (T,F) I A Brown 10-12-3 Mr G Markham (7)
3 4F-6 GIVEMEYOURHAND 35 (G) F Chapman 10-12-0 Mr D Jewett (7)
4 -558 INSIDEOUT 34P (F,S) Mrs L Ward 6-12-0 Mrs L Ward (7)
5 5313 ORSWELLTHATENSWELL 13P (F,G) R Tate 8-12-0 Mrs F Needham (3)
6 P34F YORNOANGEL 11 (S) I A Brown 10-12-0 Mr N Tutty
7 -121 FLORUCEVA 18 (F,S) B McNichol 9-11-12 Mr T Davidson (7)
8 PP3F SPICE BURN 13P N Ewart 6-11-9 Mr J Ewart (7)
9 BP21 LIL DIAMOND 27P (T,F) S Coltherd 5-11-1 Mr T Oates (7)

4-5 Coole Abbey, 9-4 Floruceva, 13-2 Lil Diamond, 20-1 Private Jet, 25-1 others.

7.35 MITIE PROPERTY SERVICES (N.E.) LTD HANDICAP CHASE (£3,852: 3m 3f) (16)

1 6P24 MERLINS DREAM 25 (F,G,S) O Sherwood 10-12-0 J A McCarthy
2 66PP CATS RUN 153 (D,F,G,S) J Upson 11-11-11 C McCormack (3)
3 U5P5 ALY DALEY 25 (C,F,G,S) J Howard Johnson 11-11-9 D Parker
4 1613 GALE FORCE 6 (BF,C,F,G,S) P Beaumont 8-11-7 B Grattan
5 F-40 JUKE BOX BILLY 11 (C,G) Mrs J Brown 11-11-1 Mr J Crowley (5)
6 100/ TIRMIZI 10F (G,S) Mrs A Swinbank 8-11-0 J Supple
7 011P GALEN 35 (B,CD,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-0 Mr A Dempsey
8 3223 THE TOASTER 21 (C,F,G,S) Miss K Milligan 12-10-13 R Guest
9 U-0P DARK OAK 120 (C,F,G,S) J Curtis 13-10-13 G Lee
10 -FR0 APACHE RAIDER 11 (B,T,CD,G,S) F Murphy 7-10-12 A Dobbin
11 35P3 TROUVAILLE 25 (F) A Turnell 8-10-7 O McPhail (5)
12 2P06 OWENS QUEST 11 (C,F,G,S) T Etherington 9-10-5 L Wyer
13 2-P1 JONAEM 6 (CD,F,S) Mrs E Slack 9-10-2 (6ex) L Cooper (7)
14 326P CADRILLON 6 (B,S) A J Lockwood 9-10-1 S Taylor
15 P460 COPPERHURST 11 (T,G,S) W Kemp 8-10-0 B Storey
16 P/0- MANDIKA 468 (G,S) S Pittendrigh 11-10-0 M H Naughton (5)

7-2 Gale Force, 11-2 Galen, 6-1 Merlins Dream, 7-1 The Toaster, 8-1 others.

8.05 STANLEY RACING NOVICES HURDLE (£2,583: 2m 5f 110yd) (15)

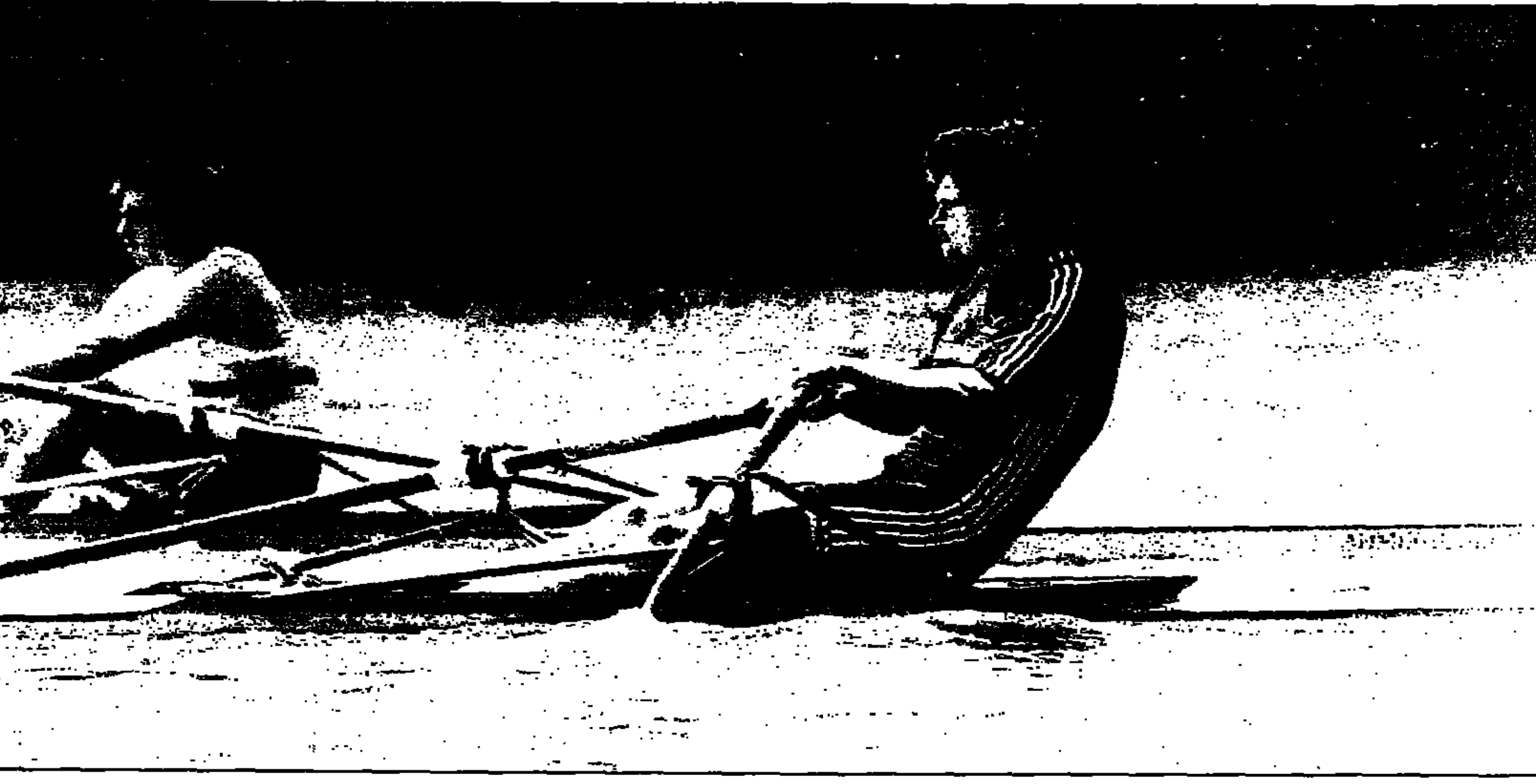
1 1P5F CLASSICAL DANCE 11 (S) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-7 Mr A Dempsey
2 00 BEHARI 58 J R Turner 5-11-0 T Reed
3 0/3/ CHAPS 1013 D Smith 9-11-0 Mr M Coglan
4 5/PP ENIGMA BELL 11 Mrs S Horner-Harker 6-11-0 S Taylor
5 2520 GUS BERRY 76 (S) D M Forster 6-11-0 R Thornton
6 00 ITS-ON-THE-CARDS 11 W Haigh 5-11-0 G Lee
7 -050 JOHNSTON'S VILLE 291 B Ellison 6-11-0 C McCormack (3)
8 2642 LUCKY MASTER 25 J Upson 7-11-0 R Guest
9 00 MR PENDLEBERRY 11 P Beaumont 5-11-0 B Grattan
10 -PF6 RICHCHRIS 18 E W Tuer 6-11-0 Mr J Crowley (5)
11 3-65 SAYONARA 87 J Howard Johnson 6-11-0 D Parker
12 ELTRYM FLYER Miss S Williamson 7-10-9 A Dobbin
13 C/03 PENNY PEPPERMINT 45 R Barr 7-10-9 N Smith
14 P/00 RAGOSA 21 F Storey 8-10-9 B Storey
15 3-30 WYNYARD DANCER 32 Mrs M Reveley 5-10-9 M H Naughton (5)

15-8 Lucky Master, 11-4 Classical Dance, 13-2 Gus Berry, 7-1 Wynyard Dancer, 10-1 Penny Peppermint, 16-1 Johnston's Ville, Richchris, 25-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Eccles, 4 winners from 12 runners, 33.3%; Mrs A Swinbank, 8 from 34, 23.5%; Mrs M Reveley, 53 from 228, 23.2%; J FitzGerald, 10 from 45, 22.2%; D Smith, 15 from 71, 21.1%; R Tate, 3 from 15, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: E Husband, 8 winners from 35 rides, 22.9%; A Dempsey, 3 from 15, 20.0%; G Lee, 18 from 91, 19.8%; R Guest, 13 from 67, 19.4%; N Bentley, 7 from 40, 17.5%; C McCormack, 13 from 78, 16.7%.



Greg Searle, pictured above right, was forced to put his back into victory as he retained his Wingfield Sculls title yesterday. Tom Gale, of Huddersfield, kept him under pressure throughout the four-mile Putney to Mortlake course. Gale, a member of the Great Britain squad, got a dream start in rough water and led Searle by one length after only a minute. However, Searle took the lead at Fulham and led by just over a length at the Mile. Searle did not significantly increase his lead but, on flatter water along Chiswick Eyot, he moved on and led by 11 seconds at Chiswick Steps. Gale had bravely reduced this margin to nine seconds at the finish. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Leeds three go where Eagles dared

Christopher Irvine on the rugby league players hoping for success at Wembley after missing out last year

FOR 12 months, Anthony Farrell, the juggernaut in the Leeds Rhinos back row, has been pestered by Darren Turner showing off his Sheffield Eagles winner's medal *from the Silk Cut Challenge* Cup final. Farrell and the Leeds half backs, Daryl Powell and Ryan Sheridan, have special reason to lift the *trophy tomorrow after* missing out last year.

The trio, plus Andy Hay, who is on the bench at Wembley against London *Broncos, were established fig*ures in the Sheffield team. Two-and-a-half years ago, Gary Hetherington left the Eagles, the club that he had *founded with his wife, Kath, in* 1984, to become chief executive at Leeds. He snapped up Farrell, Sheridan and Hay from his old club, to mutterings *about whether Leeds should* be recruiting tradesmen.

Hetherington is a shrewd judge of character. His first signing for Sheffield was Pow*ell, who spent 11 seasons with* him there, before he was sold to Keighley in 1995. The day *before his debut*, Keighley discovered that there was no place for them in the Super League. In the summer of 1997, Leeds signed nine of *their players, including Powell* and Darren Fleary, the prop forward, for £25,000 in an inspired piece of business.

From being destined for the sidings, Powell is *running* around as sprightly as anyone can with flat feet and a sore calf. No one reads a game better — the fact that Iestyn Har*ris cannot dislodge him from* the stand-off half role is powerful evidence — and in his first Challenge Cup final, at 33, he can finally get his reward at *club level to go with his 33* appearances for Great Britain.

His one disappointment last year was that Leeds were training in Tunisia and he missed *seeing Sheffield beat Wigan in* the final. "I'm not one for looking back. I'd left Sheffield and *I was just glad they'd won* something. It was difficult at an unfashionable club to win international honours, but Gary Hetherington pushed *me and it's ironic we're both at* Wembley all these years later with Leeds," Powell said.

Sheridan, left, Powell and Farrell have key roles

"This isn't like the Leeds *teams of old and that's partly* down to the players Gary's signed. There's none of the flash people around. It's a determined, gritty team that's *prepared to go 10-0 down and* have enough tenacity to win. We can play attractive rugby league and we can tough it out with anybody if we have to."

If Powell's pedigree was well-documented, Sheridan, an under-21 international scrum half, looked a less sure bet after five years mostly in *the shadow of Mark Aston at* Sheffield. He did not settle at Leeds initially, but when Graham Murray, the coach, ran him at hooker last season, a spell *in the pack worked won*ders for his confidence.

Sheridan, 24, a leading candidate for most-improved player this season, said: "I got to *appreciate what those for*wards go through. Having been at the back of them, and then *stuck in the middle of* them, you see their side of it. They appreciate someone at scrum half taking the thinking out of their game by telling *them which direction to go.*"

The self-belief of Sheridan, best seen when he pinched the ball off Danny Peacock to help beat Bradford Bulls in the *semi-final, has been a key* factor on the road to Wembley and the Great Britain management have been nudged several times in his direction. *"I'd love to pull on a Britain* jersey, but you only get that through performing week-in and week-out," he said.

Up front, Hay would get *more starts than he does were* it not for the consistency of the Jamaica-born Farrell, 30, for whom the Sheffield connection is one reason that Leeds are at *Wembley. "We're all friends.* When the going gets tough, you know they'll be there," he said. At 4.30pm tomorrow, the four former Eagles hope to be *showing off their own* winner's medals.

Irvine prepares for brief role as an Italian hero

Kevin Eason finds the Briton looking forward to a battle against the odds

Eddie Irvine will *become the focus of* adoration of Italy's ferociously patriotic motor racing fans today on a scale that he might never experience again.

The Ulsterman comes to Ferrari's home circuit of Imola for the San Marino Grand Prix leading the *Formula One world champi*onship and revelling in this brief interlude in his career with the Maranello team. He is not expected to win races, *let alone the world champion*ship, least of all by Michael Schumacher, his team leader, around whom the most famous team in Formu*la One is built.*

Finding a voice in the pitlane who believes that Irvine can leave here as championship leader is as tough as finding a Conservative voter in Scotland. David Coulthard, his McLaren-Mercedes rival, who won here last year, said simply: "I don't think *Eddie* is a problem. It's not much use worrying about Eddie because he is leading the *championship now, because* he won't be there at the end of the season."

Irvine also believes that his quest is an uphill struggle *and his main challenge this* weekend is not to be disheartened by a car that has failed to live up to its pre-season billing. The McLarens had a *1.3 second per lap advantage* at the last race in Brazil and could still be a full second quicker here, a chasm on a circuit where top *speeds will touch 200mph.*

Irvine is well aware that today's hero will be Sunday's villain if he and Schumacher fail to live up to the demands of the *tifosi*, who have waited *20 years to see a driver win* the world championship in a Ferrari.

"It will be a brilliant atmosphere with the right *result for us. If we get* spanked by the McLarens on Sunday, we are not going to be very popular with the fans," Irvine said. "One of *the reasons I stayed at Ferra*ri was that I thought I had a chance of fighting with the McLarens and that's not really the case, so it's very *disheartening — more than* disheartening. But that's life and you have got to get on with it and find a way to *close the gap. There is no use* crying about it."

Ferrari maintained all winter that they lost the championship last year in *the first five races of the* season with an uncompetitive car and vowed that this year would be different. To the obvious chagrin of Irvine *and Schumacher*, the McLarens are still faster and perhaps it is only their Achilles' heel of unreliability, as seen in Australia, where Irvine won when both McLarens expired, that holds out a chance of Ferrari victory this weekend.

"If I can leave here still in *the lead of the champion*ship, then I will feel I have *achieved something,*" Irvine said. "You can't always have luck running your way. If I could leave here with a six or seven-point advantage, that *would be nice.*"

Whatever happens, rumours abound that this will be Irvine's swansong with Ferrari. He has only a one-*year contract, worth £3 mil*lion, and, at 33, might feel that it is time to move on, perhaps becoming the No 1 driver with a new team *rather than eke out his days* in Formula One in Schumacher's shadow.

Speculation grows that he wants to join the increasing*ly confident Jordan team*, perhaps as a replacement for Damon Hill, if the 1996 world champion decides to retire. Irvine refused to confirm the *rumours*, saying only: "I have known Eddie [Jordan] a long time, but I haven't thought about next year. This year is more important and we have a *lot to do yet.*"

BANGOR

ROB WRIGHT

5.50 Lady Of Gortmerron — 7.20 Riparius
6.20 Eskleybrook — 7.50 Tombola
6.50 Sefton Blake — 8.20 Seattle Alley

Carl Evans: 7.50 Tombola.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

5.50 J. SCOTT FURNISHERS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,990: 3m) (12 runners)

1 2410 LADY OF GORTMERRON 18 (D,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-7 C Llewellyn
2 P412 BRONHALLOW 13 (T,D,S) Mrs B Waring 6-11-6 C Webb
3 0361 CHARTER RIDGE 13 (C,G,S) J J O'Neill 6-11-6 R McGrath
4 -13R HAREM SCAREM 25 (C,S) M Pitman 8-11-6 B Harding
5 6401 THE GOOD KNIGHT 27 (D,G) D Nicholson 7-11-6 W Marston
6 0164 YER 'UMBLE 13 (S) J K Cresswell 8-11-6 D Forti (3)
7 /P-0 BEAU QUEST 306 B Cambidge 12-11-0 R Massey
8 503P BRUMAUS 13 (B) S Brookshaw 7-11-0 X Aizpuru (3)
9 00P CHELSEA MARINER 187 Miss C Caroe 7-11-0 S Wynne
10 16-0 GRASP THE NETTLE 148 (B,D,S) K Bailey 7-11-0 Mr R Forristal (5)
11 P1/P MAGILLEN 24 (D,S) K Bailey 7-11-0 R Wakley
12 P FISHERMAN'S COVE 14 L Lungo 4-10-6 R Supple

3-1 The Good Knight, 7-2 Lady Of Gortmerron, 4-1 Charter Ridge, 13-2 Harem Scarem, 7-1 Bronhallow, 10-1 Yer 'umble, 12-1 Magillen, 16-1 others.



6.20 JONES PECKOVER NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£4,260: 2m 1f 110yd) (11)

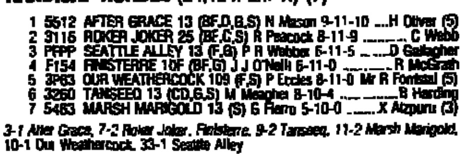
1 321P DAMZA 22 (T,F,G) N Mason 7-12-0 H Oliver (5)
2 2515 REACH THE CLOUDS 17 (D,G,S) J Upson 7-11-9 R Supple
3 PP11 ESKLEYBROOK 7 (G,S) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-7 (7ex) C Llewellyn
4 4514 STONESBY 25 (F,G) G M Moore 7-11-5 J Callaghan
5 1430 POSITIVO 258 (G,S) Miss C Caroe 8-10-8 C Webb
6 06UP DACELO 7 (F) H Howe 8-10-4 Mr P Ryan (7)
7 03P4 ROYRACE 13 (V) W Brisbourne 7-10-3 R Massey
8 06P3 CHARLIESMEDARLIN 25 (T,G) Mrs B Waring 8-10-1 E Byrne
9 4652 JILLS JOY 25 (B) A Streeter 8-10-1 A S Smith
10 4240 DORMSTON BOYO 6 (V,F) T Wall 9-10-0 R Greene
11 PU61 KATSAR 216 (F) M Hammond 7-10-0 B Harding

5-2 Eskleybrook, 9-2 Katsar, 11-2 Charliesmedarlin, 7-1 Reach The Clouds, 8-1 Stonesby, Jills Joy, 10-1 Damza, Dormston Boyo, 25-1 others.

6.50 RED CROSS WEEK SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,516: 2m 4f) (19)

1 0F0U EBEN AL HABEEB 37 (B,C,S) D McCain 8-11-10 S Wynne
2 P265 GOLDEN FILM 25 (T,S) B Llewellyn 11-11-5 R McGrath
3 0030 LEAFY GROVE 21 J Upson 7-11-3 T Jenks
4 3200 HAPPY MINSTRAL 25 Miss S Baxter 5-11-2 Gary Lyons
5 506P RIMOUSKI 66 (T,C,G) B Cambidge 11-11-0 R Massey
6 4361 SEFTON BLAKE 21 (F) M Meagher 5-10-12 J Callaghan
7 P060 GAELIC 25 N Twiston-Davies 7-10-10 C Llewellyn
8 0016 DUNSTON HEATH 27 (S) B Leavy 6-10-9 W Worthington
9 00U4 EVENKEEL 13 (B) D Windle 7-10-8 W Marston
10 652P FAIR FINNISH 25 (V) W Clay 5-10-7 G Tormey
11 6P44 REDHANDED 175 J Neville 8-10-6 Miss P Jones
12 PP05 FEARLESS WONDER 6 (D,S) H Howe 8-10-3 Miss K Di Marte (7)
13 0240 REAL FIRE 21 (F) M Meagher 5-10-3 B Harding
14 P-PP ARIF 27 (T) Mrs H Walton 7-10-1 Mr A Walton
15 00PF BRITANNIA MILLS 34 (B,D,F,G,S) R J Price 8-10-0 D Gallagher
16 00PP SINGING SCALLY 59 W Clay 8-10-0 X Aizpuru (3)
17 0040 PORTER PADDY 38 L Lungo 7-10-0 R Supple
18 0-00 MILLING BROOK 71 (CD,G) J Bradley 7-10-0 H Oliver (5)
19 F00/ FLORISMART 23F B Baugh 7-10-0 R Studholme (5)

7-2 Dunston Heath, 4-1 Sefton Blake, 7-1 Evenkeel, Redhanded, 8-1 Real Fire, 10-1 Fair Finnish, 14-1 Golden Film, Arif, 16-1 others.



7.20 WYNNSTAY HUNT SUPPORTERS CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (£5,459: 2m 4f 110yd) (12)

1 11-P PENNYBRIDGE 27 (D,F,G,S) D Nicholson 10-12-0 W Marston
2 -42P EVEN BLUE 24 (CD,S) Mrs C Black 11-11-8 G Tormey
3 211P RIPARIUS 10 (F,G,S) P R Webber 8-11-1 R McGrath
4 6413 ROMANCER 48 (B,D,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-1 C Llewellyn
5 2233 HOODWINKER 25 (C,D,G,S) W Jenks 10-11-0 T Jenks
6 5205 OAT COUTURE 32 (D,G,S) L Lungo 11-10-13 R Supple
7 1210 LUKE WARM 17 (D,G,S) D Gandolfo 9-10-13 P Hide
8 1P55 HAWAIIAN SAM 10 (D,F,G,S) K Burke 9-10-11 A S Smith
9 231U THE EENS 21 (CD,S) D McCain 7-10-7 S Wynne
10 5515 ORDOG MOR 230 (D,F,G) M Meagher 10-10-7 B Harding
11 6344 SPANISH LIGHT 24 (D,F,S) Sir J Barlow Bt 10-10-6 Mr R Forristal (5)
12 P36U BATTERY FIRED 24 (D,G) N Mason 10-10-3 D Gallagher

7-2 Hoodwinker, 5-1 The Eens, 13-2 Romancer, 7-1 Riparius, Luke Warm, 10-1 Hawaiian Sam, 12-1 Spanish Light, Battery Fired, 14-1 others.

7.50 EASTERN DESTINY NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (£1,451: 3m 110yd) (5)

1 11B1 TOMBOLA 13 (CD,G,S) Mrs C Bailey 8-12-7 Mr B Pollock
2 2111 SILVERDALESURESHOT 12P (D,F,G) P Evans 7-12-0 Mr R Burton (5)
3 1/11 THE PARISH PUMP 13P (D,G,S) Mrs C Ford 11-12-0 Mrs C Ford (5)
4 -31U BANTEER BET 19P (BF,D,G) J Groucott 7-11-9 Mr R Cooper (7)
5 1/3P SPRING BAVARD 11 (D,G) K Jones 12-11-9 Mr D S Jones (3)

5-4 Tombola, 2-1 Silverdalesureshot, 3-1 The Parish Pump, 14-1 others.

8.20 CORPORATE BONDING AT THE RACES HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,124: 2m 1f) (7)

1 5512 AFTER GRACE 13 (BF,D,G,S) N Mason 9-11-10 H Oliver (5)
2 3116 ROKER JOKER 25 (BF,C,S) R Peacock 8-11-9 C Webb
3 PFPP SEATTLE ALLEY 13 (F,G) P R Webber 6-11-5 D Gallagher
4 F154 FINISTERRE 10F (BF,G) J J O'Neill 6-11-0 R McGrath
5 3P63 OUR WEATHERCOCK 109 (F,S) P Eccles 8-11-0 Mr R Forristal (5)
6 3260 TANSEEQ 13 (CD,G,S) M Meagher 8-10-4 B Harding
7 5463 MARSH MARIGOLD 13 (S) G Fierro 5-10-0 X Aizpuru (3)

3-1 After Grace, 7-2 Roker Joker, Finisterre, 9-2 Tanseeq, 11-2 Marsh Marigold, 10-1 Our Weathercock, 33-1 Seattle Alley

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P R Webber, 7 winners from 27 runners, 25.9%; D Nicholson, 13 from 57, 22.8%; L Lungo, 3 from 19, 15.8%; J J O'Neill, 8 from 52, 15.4%; N Twiston-Davies, 10 from 67, 14.9%; D Gandolfo, 4 from 28, 14.3%.

JOCKEYS: B Harding, 12 winners from 43 rides, 27.9%; R Wakley, 3 from 15, 20.0%; C Llewellyn, 12 from 69, 17.4%; W Marston, 9 from 65, 13.8%; R McGrath, 3 from 25, 12.0%; G Tormey, 4 from 35, 11.4%.

CRICKET

Cork keeps turning the screw on Kent

By Jack Bailey

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Kent, with one second-innings wicket in hand, are 49 runs ahead of Derbyshire

IT IS not quite all over yet, despite the extra half-hour having been taken yesterday. But, weather permitting, the mood in the Derbyshire camp should be pretty cheerful when they make an early start home today. A fine all-round performance by Dominic Cork and another good bout of bowling by the formidable Derbyshire seam quartet have thoroughly earned a probable victory in the PPP county championship for their team and it is long odds against them being denied.

Matthew Fleming and Mark Ealham went some way towards restoring Kent's lost cause and pride with a partnership worth 60 runs, after Kent had first surrendered a first-innings lead of 159 and then lost six wickets for 58 in their second innings. Kent's chances of saving this match, however, had by then virtually disappeared.

When he keeps his feet on the ground and his head is not too far in the clouds, there are few more effective cricketers than Dominic Cork. Yesterday it was the Cork we all want to see: responsible, gifted, wholeheartedly committed to a cause beyond his own. In removing Derbyshire from a position of danger, he took his overnight score of seven to 82 with a rich array of strokes tempered with judicious defence.

During an innings of more than three hours, he picked off nine fours and two sixes, one of them rather harshly greeting a new spell by Headley with a vast blow over long-off.

Then he moved in to take the wickets of Key and Wells as the early Kent order clattered once more. Poor Wells was leg-before for the second time in this match without playing a stroke.

Cork's was the performance of a true all-rounder and his Derbyshire team are apparently right behind him, none more so than the array of seam bowlers to whom Kent had little answer until Fleming and Ealham came together and before Fleming had one rush of blood too many.

Kent's last hopes of making a fight of it largely disappeared with the admirable partnership yesterday morning between Cork and Krikken, which was worth 61 runs in all and dispelled once and for all any idea that there were landmines in the pitch. Resolution and a straight bat were the keys to their success. While Cork was aggressive, he took few chances. Krikken was a model of awkward stubbornness, the model of a gutsy professional.

By the time Krikken had been turned inside out by a full-length ball from Headley and was leg-before, the Derbyshire lead was 79 and Cork was in full flow. The last three Derbyshire batsmen sold themselves dearly in terms of their support for the captain. For his part, Cork, by a judicious mix of clean, straight hitting and farming of the bowling, took Derbyshire to the once unlikely position of a first-innings lead of 159.

Cork suffered a painful blow on the elbow — from Min Patel, the Kent slow left-arm bowler, of all people — but although this caused him to retire early from the day's play, it did not prevent him from getting among the wickets when Kent attempted to restore their fortunes with the bat. After Dean had again removed the hapless Fulton with his second ball, Cork and DeFreitas were also early among the wickets.

Then Smith, Derbyshire's fourth seamer, joined in. He bowled Marsh with a beauty and removed both Fleming and Headley, likewise with no assistance from the field. Fleming's innings was characteristically belligerent and useful, but it was Mark Ealham, as he passed a half-century that contained ten fours amid long periods of studious defence, who must have given the suffering Kent supporters the most reason for hope.



Brown, in the field for Warwickshire, jumps to avoid a shot from Irani, of Essex, at Chelmsford yesterday. Photograph: Graham Morris

Impressive Drakes makes decisive start

By Pat Gibson

TRENT BRIDGE (second day of four): Worcestershire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, need 191 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Nottinghamshire

THERE were a few raised eyebrows when one of Clive Rice's first decisions on his return to Nottinghamshire as cricket manager was to dispense with the services of Paul Strang, the Zimbabwe leg-spinner, as their overseas player and replace him with Vasbert Drakes.

Since he played for Sussex a couple of years ago, Drakes had been frustrated by his failure to break into the West Indies team and had been plying his trade with Border, where last season he took 56 wickets, only two short of the South African record shared by Peter Pollock and Sylvester Clarke.

Drakes began to repay Rice's faith yesterday, taking five for 49 and drawing good support from Alex Wharf, Paul Franks and Mark Bowen as Worcestershire were bowled out for 172, forced to follow on 245 runs behind and then reduced to 54 for two.

That there was still plenty of help for the seamers on a grassy pitch on which Worcestershire had allowed Nottinghamshire to reach 377 for six on the first day was evident when Sheriyar mopped up the tail with three for 18.

The obduracy of Pollard meant that there was no early breakthrough for Nottinghamshire and it was not until he had made 20 in 22 overs that he got a good ball from Wharf and was brilliantly caught by the excellent Read, diving a long way to his left.

Drakes then struck the decisive blows, removing Hick with a ball which left him off the seam, Solanki with extra bounce and Leatherdale with one which ripped out his off-stump as he offered no stroke, all in the space of 18 balls.

Weston, who retired hurt when Hick was out after being struck in the groin, returned to make a gallant 45, but with Lampitt unable to bat after breaking a finger in the field the rest went quietly. So did Weston and Pollard the second time around and much will depend on Hick if Worcestershire are to survive today.

Languid Essex show little to stir the soul

By Thrasy Petropoulos

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Warwickshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 94 runs ahead of Essex

IT IS an enduring paradox that Essex, a county whose championship form has been so indifferent of late, should retain such visible support. The reward for a healthy gathering of spectators yesterday was a colourless display of batting, delivered at a funereal pace in a match that is, in theory, very much alive.

On a pitch of little life, Warwickshire had no option but to sit back and wait for batsmen to commit errors, content in the knowledge that their first-innings total of 271 was always likely to be beyond Essex's capabilities, and on this evidence, their ambitions. They were eventually dismissed for 191.

Ronnie Irani, the only batsman to buck the trend of underachievement at Chelmsford last year, was inexplicably subdued, labouring 91 balls over his 12 runs before driving Graeme Welch to extra-cover. Similarly, Paul Grayson, with whom Irani put on 24 in 27 overs after lunch at a time when the innings was crying out for impetus, was even more limpet-like, managing only 14 scoring strokes in 121 balls — five of them boundaries — for 29.

The shame for Essex was that Stuart Law shone only briefly before receiving the ball of the day from Tim Munton. A sweetly timed cover drive off Welch, and two further boundaries through deft leg glances were Law's first three scoring strokes but, on reaching 33, he was undone by a beauty from Munton that left the batsman squared up and lacking an off stump.

That dismissal capped a particularly impressive spell from Munton in which he bowled with rhythm and zest, conceding only four runs in eight overs. He had earlier removed Nasser Hussain with a tumbling return catch, and concluded the innings by trapping Peter Such leg-before with the new ball.

Warwickshire's efforts to add to their lead of 80 were set back when Ilott took the wickets of Nick Knight — for his second failure in the match — and nightwatchman Munton in the space of two balls. Their dominance, though, should prove conclusive.

Somerset marvel as Cox shows his worth

By John Thicknesse

TAUNTON (first day of four: Yorkshire won toss): Somerset have scored 362 for six wickets against Yorkshire

JAMIE COX yesterday launched himself into county championship cricket with an innings possibly as pure and fluent as any overseas batsman has played in the 30-odd years since immediate imports were allowed in the English game.

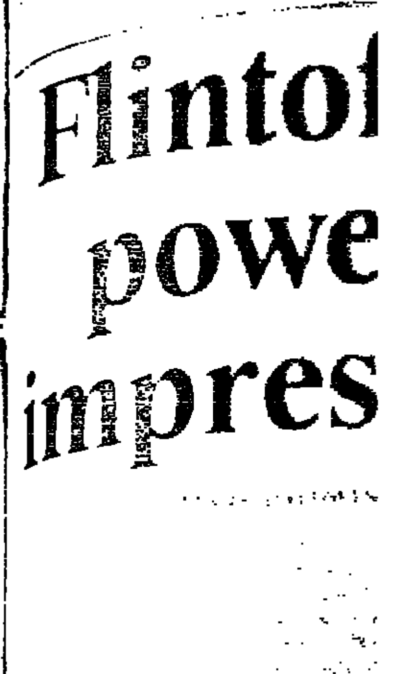
Cox, 29, the vice-captain of Tasmania, scored 173 in 325 minutes for Somerset against Yorkshire and played hardly a false stroke, let alone gave a chance. A straight-backed six-footer, remarkably similar in build to Greg Blewett, his fellow countryman, whose role was that of impotent spectator in the covers, Cox displayed a range of strokes off either foot that left Yorkshire utterly defenceless.

"When we signed him we were told we were getting an accumulator, but I can see he is a little more than that," a delighted member of Somerset's administrative staff said after Cox had effortlessly cleared the press box with an on-drive off Vaughan.

In so far as Yorkshire fed Cox's off-side strength with a surfeit of half-volleys, and later long hops, they had only themselves to blame. But Cox's brilliance understandably unsettled seamers short of practice and, like most contemporary Australians, his recognition of the quick single was exemplary.

Though Hamilton failed to add to the 41 wickets he had taken in Yorkshire's previous six four-day matches, he bowled the best line of the seam quintet but after Silverwood's first over, the last ball of which cut back the best part of a foot to clip Bowler's off stump, there was little movement for the bowlers.

Cox, a textbook stylist, faced 247 balls and hit 25 fours, mainly straight or through the covers. He played one poor stroke in the morning, a waft at a worthless ball from Hoggard, but nothing unsightly after that until the stroke that cost his wicket, when he drove distractedly at Sidebottom and was bowled. Trescothick, Holloway and Burns lent strong support in successive partnerships of 61, 95 and 138. But the day belonged to Cox.



Renshaw's line leaves Durham facing lengthy battle

CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of four): Durham, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, need 119 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Hampshire

By Richard Hobson

AT THE fall of each Durham wicket, the Hampshire fielders joined in a circle and linked arms in a replica of the huddle that became a symbol of Leicestershire's march to the championship three years ago. Hampshire may not possess the strength in depth to match that achievement, but they are a *purposeful, improving side* with a strong team ethic.

On this evidence they are also far too disciplined for Durham, who capitulated against accurate seam bowling after lunch yesterday and, after following on 199 runs behind, need to offer far more resilient defence today on a pitch that is beginning to see the *odd ball shoot through low* if they are to avoid defeat with a day to spare.

When Stephenson bowled Harmison with the last ball before tea to end the first innings on 167, a Durham member was heard to ask: "Can it get any worse?" Unfortunately, where *his county is concerned*, the answer is always "yes", but if the judgment of too many Durham batsmen was unwise in the extreme, then Hampshire can also take credit for their own work in the field.

In particular, Simon Renshaw, a medium-pace bowler, who suffered ankle problems for most of last season, *changed his pace intelligently* and gained plentiful reward for respecting the old-fashioned virtues of line and length by removing four of the first seven Durham batsmen during a 6.5-over spell in which he conceded 16 runs.

The *departure of John Morris*, when the home side sat in apparent comfort on 96 for two, heralded this collapse, which also embraced an uncharacteristic mistake by Boon against clever bowling by Mascarenhas. Expecting another *ball to move away, the Tasmanian*, who values his wicket very highly, *shouldered arms and was surprised* to see the ball nip back to hit the off stump.

When Collingwood and Speight fell in the same Renshaw over and *Stephenson* held a blinding, one-handed catch at slip to remove Betts, *the tail could only embark upon a* damage-limitation exercise. Mascarenhas, skidding the ball through, then won leg-before decisions against Lewis and Morris when Durham tried again.

Only two batsmen, Daley and *Gough*, emerged in credit. *Daley*, composed and organised, batted 154 *minutes for his unbeaten 43 in the* first innings while Gough withstood a hostile spell from McLean without flinching. He resumes on 26 this morning.

Flintoff's power impresses

By Mark Baldwin

LEICESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 151 runs ahead of Lancashire

IAN BOTHAM will be at Grace Road this morning, playing an ambassadorial role and offering opinions on the forthcoming World Cup. He will feel at home, for this has been quite a match for all-rounders.

Chris Lewis, the dominant force in the opening exchanges, *found himself sharing* centre stage yesterday with the *hefty frame of Andrew Flintoff*, who is, by some distance, *the form horse of an England* stable that seems prey to some *mystery virus*.

Because of his physique and character, Flintoff has already had to deal with the Botham comparisons that weighed so heavily, on talented players such as Derek Pringle, Phil DeFreitas and Dominic Cork. Lewis, of course, has never been regarded as the "real thing" — especially by Botham himself.

But here he was, converting his overnight 77 into a second successive PPP county championship century, stretching his last-wicket stand with Matthew *Brimson* to 123 and then quickly removing Crawley and Lloyd on his way to figures of three for 18.

The difference in quality between the two seam attacks, *and the extra pace generated* by the Leicestershire trio of *Lewis, Kasprowicz and* Mullally, is likely to prove the deciding factor in this game.

Mullally was understandably rusty in his first bowl of the season, but the England selectors will be pleased that he came through his 17 overs, which yielded two wickets, with no sign of the side strain that affected him in Sharjah.

Without Flintoff yesterday Lancashire would have been simply swept aside, rather than managing to creep past the follow-on mark. The running out of Wood, *after a mix-up*, and the freak dismissal of Watkinson, *caught off silly point's boot at extra cover*, did not help their cause.

The power of Flintoff's hitting is quite awesome. His international breakthrough in Sharjah, and his 143 off 66 balls against Essex last Sunday, have raised hopes that he can make a huge impact in the next two months.

Like Botham, he has good basic technique and yesterday, *while the rest of the Lancashire* batsmen struggled to survive, Flintoff had the ability to take the fight to the bowlers. *After getting off the mark with* a pull for four off Lewis, *he then took on Kasprowicz* with two straight drives and a crunching square cut. He did need some good fortune on this seaming pitch — a couple of his fours came off the inside edge — but otherwise his strokes were of the highest class.

He reached his fifty by swinging Wells for six in an over that also brought him two lofted fours. Another six followed, hit straight back past Mullally. Whereas Botham used to release his massive power with an extraordinary *follow-through*, Flintoff merely dismisses the ball with a short-arm punch.

It took a ball from Kasprowicz *that kept a little low*, after pitching near a spot from *which several balls had* reared, to dismiss him for 86.

Leicestershire are already playing like champions again, but Dav Whatmore, the Lancashire coach, did provide some better news for last season's runners-up by confirming that Michael Atherton plans to return on May 14, the day that England open the World Cup against Sri Lanka. Whatmore, who coached Sri Lanka when they won in 1996, still believes England erred in not allowing Atherton more time to prove his fitness.

WINSTON BYNORTH

Russell leads the Gloucestershire celebrations as Barnett, centre, catches Weekes off the bowling of Snape

Ramprakash enjoys his pudding

BRISTOL (second day of four): Middlesex, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 101 runs behind Gloucestershire

By Geoffrey Dean

PUDDING-LIKE pitches such as this — or stodgy, as one Gloucestershire player called it — do not tend to produce good cricket or cricketers, but those who came to Nevil Road yesterday were given a masterclass in how to bat on such surfaces by Mark Ramprakash, who *stands on* 76 overnight.

This was a functional rather than exuberant innings from *the Middlesex captain, but it* was expertly tailored to the conditions. He proceeded carefully at all times because his team, at one point 122 for five, needed something strong from him. He needed runs, too, after scoring only 52 from his previous four innings this season.

Not that Ramprakash has been out of form, merely short of time in the middle. For 4¼ hours yesterday, he ushered Middlesex towards respectability, emerging sporadically from near-watertight defence with attacking strokes of perfect pedigree.

On such a slow pitch, timing the ball has been a problem for batsmen, but Ramprakash's was so good that it seemed to have been barely affected. He played both late and straight, twice pushing perfectly respectable deliveries from Lewis to the long-on boundary through timing alone. When the opportunity *to drive came — albeit rarely — he did so, reaching his fifty off 159 balls with a classical* cover drive. Throughout, he was watchfulness itself, head down and foot pushed forward at every opportunity.

Assisting Ramprakash in Middlesex's spirited fightback was David Nash, the junior partner in a an unbeaten sixth-wicket stand of 71 that spanned the entire final session. It was already worth 65 when Nash was missed off a difficult chance at the wicket *in Barnett's first over*. Ramprakash gave no chances, al*though he was fortunate in* his twenties when an edge off Lewis flew wide of the slips for one of his 12 fours.

For the main part, Gloucestershire bowled pretty well and to the fullish length required on this pitch. Smith beat Roseberry with his trademark inswinger and Lewis took the key wicket of Langer, who made 43, with a ball that also dipped in.

Alleyne did a manful job, *running into a cold wind* all day and mixing up his box of *tricks. These included slower* balls, bouncers when Russell *was standing up and an abso*lute pearl that straightened to *clip the top of Shah's off* stump. Snape also did a sterling containing job with his off breaks, picking up the wicket of Weekes courtesy of a bat-pad catch at silly point.

The Gloucestershire tail had wagged usefully before lunch, with the last-wicket pair denying Fraser a deserved five-wicket haul. Less gratifying for Gloucestershire was the news that Harvey, their Australian all-rounder, will be out for the next two *weeks with a pinched nerve in* his back.

SCOREBOARD FROM BRISTOL

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings	
K J Barnett b Fraser	51
T H C Hancock c Kettleborough b Cook	1
D R Hewson c Shah b Tufnell	23
*M W Alleyne c Ramprakash b Shah	76
M G N Windows c Nash b Tufnell	15
R I Dawson c Nash b Hewitt	10
J N Snape lbw b Fraser	18
†R C Russell lbw b Fraser	36
J Lewis c Langer b Fraser	17
J M M Averis not out	18
A M Smith b Shah	14
Extras (b 1, lb 13, nb 4)	18
Total (129.5 overs)	**297**

FALL OF WICKETS 1-4, 2-58, 3-91, 4-120, 5-131, 6-181, 7-230, 8-257, 9-264.

BOWLING: Fraser 35-15-53-4, Cook 13-2-51-1; Hewitt 22-4-67-1, Tufnell 42-9-82-2; Weekes 10-4-16-0; Shah 7.5-2-14-2.

MIDDLESEX: First Innings	
M A Roseberry lbw b Smith	8
J L Langer lbw b Lewis	43
*M R Ramprakash not out	76
R A Kettleborough b Lewis	10
O A Shah b Alleyne	0
P N Weekes c Barnett b Snape	6
†D C Nash not out	39
Extras (lb 12, nb 12)	24
Total (5 wkts, 82 overs)	**196**

J P Hewitt, S J Cook, A R C Fraser and P C R Tufnell to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-36, 2-73, 3-93, 4-94, 5-122

BOWLING: Smith 18-4-42-1, Lewis 17-4-54-2; Averis 15-3-44-0, Alleyne 19-6-30-1; Snape 11-5-6-1; Barnett 2-0-8-0.

Bonus points: Gloucestershire 4 Middlesex 4

Umpires: D J Constant and M J Harris.

Hollioake blooms early

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Northamptonshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 80 runs ahead of Surrey

By Ivo Tennant

ADAM HOLLIOAKE has an exacting summer ahead of him. It could be said to have begun in Sharjah, but the innings that he played yesterday was his first of any significance. Before he ran himself out when looking to steal the strike and the handful of runs he needed for his century, his eye was in to the extent that he timed the ball with rare skill for the time of year.

Hollioake, who will revert to captaining Surrey when the World Cup is over, had only had one previous first-class innings to follow one match in Sharjah and it was so brief that the county's scorer had to check that it really did occur.

So well did the older Hollioake time his drives yesterday that he was hitting Malcolm back over his head and taking a step down the pitch to Taylor *towards the end of his innings*. He gave one chance, to second slip when he had made 76, and it would be fair to assume he would have reached a century if Shahid had been able to *bat properly. He was in the pa*vilion, having broken his left wrist when facing Malcolm the previous evening, and was unable to grip his bat with both hands. Mindful, though, that his side could have done with another batting point, he nobly returned to the middle.

Malcolm and Taylor were still bowling and Shahid did manage to connect with one single-handed waft outside off stump. Alas, such endeavour was not rewarded. Hollioake called him for a bye in the next over, even though the ball had gone straight to the wicket-keeper, and ran himself out four runs short of a century. He had struck 15 fours and a six.

There was little that was notable about the rest of the innings. Butcher reached a half-century before Taylor drew him into a mistimed drive. Brown clubbed the ball around, disregarding the bounce in the pitch. Surrey finished with a lead of 38, but further resolution from Bailey and more vigorous batting by Loye gave Northamptonshire an advantage by the close.

Sussex assume command

CARDIFF (second day of four): Sussex, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 209 runs ahead of Glamorgan

By John Stern

THE DAY began badly for Glamorgan with the news of an injury to Matthew Maynard, the captain, and got little better as they conceded a first-innings lead of 73.

Maynard initially thought he had only dislocated his *right little finger when it* jammed into the turf during a fielding session after the first day. However, it was confirmed yesterday morning that the finger was broken and he will be out for up to six weeks. This time last year, Maynard injured his groin during a warm-up and missed the whole of May as a result.

His absence was sorely felt by a Glamorgan batting line-up that already lacks depth and experience. Only Dean Cosker, the England A left-arm spinner who had come in as nightwatchman on the first evening, passed 20 in the Glamorgan total of 149. *His three*-hour innings of 49 was his career-best and contained omens of a promising future as an all-rounder. *He can console him*self that the ball from James Kirtley that denied him a maiden half-century was an exceptionally fine one, squaring him up and hitting the off stump.

Kirtley bowled fast and straight in taking five for 49, three of his dismissals either bowled or leg-before. At the other end Robinson took three for 27 off 20.1 overs and benefited from having Humphries, who looks an accomplished wicketkeeper, standing up to him.

Sussex took the game away from Glamorgan after tea with a tidy and timely innings of 79 not out from Toby Peirce, who, *with Montgomerie*, has established a productive opening partnership. Peirce is strong off his legs and he and *Montgomerie seek the quick* single with alacrity. Indeed, *the dismissal of Montgomerie* was the result of over-zealous running, Newell's throw from deep square leg beating the Sussex opener home.

Croft took three wickets in the final hour, including that of Tony Cottey, his friend and former team-mate, for the second time in the match.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

PPP county championship

Durham v Hampshire

CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of four): Durham, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, need 119 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Hampshire

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings	
G W White c Lewis b Harmison	25
J P Stephenson c Lewis b Brown	7
W S Kendall c Speight b Wood	105
*R A Smith c Betts b Wood	10
†A N Aymes c and b Wood	51
D A Kenway not out	70
A D Mascarenhas b Collingwood	44
S D Udal run out	1
A C Morris c Collingwood b Brown	2
N A M McLean c Gough b Betts	5
S J Renshaw lbw b Brown	4
Extras (b 4, lb 14, nb 24)	42
Total (116.4 overs)	**366**

FALL OF WICKETS 1-21, 2-39, 3-70, 4-212, *5-239, 6-322, 7-335, 8-340, 9-347*

BOWLING Brown 29.4-8-69-3, Betts 25-8-64-1, Harmison 18-2-83-1, Wood 25-5-80-3, Gough 7-2-23-0, Collingwood 12-2-29-1

DURHAM: First Innings	
J J B Lewis lbw b McLean	19
M A Gough lbw b Renshaw	29
J E Morris lbw b Renshaw	21
J A Daley not out	43
*D C Boon b *Mascarenhas*	5
P D Collingwood lbw b Renshaw	1
†M P Speight c Stephenson b Renshaw	0
M M Betts c Stephenson b Morris	11
J Wood b Morris	0
S J E Brown lbw b Stephenson	6
S J Harmison b Stephenson	8
Extras (b 5, lb 5, w 2, nb 12)	24
Total (59.4 overs)	**167**

FALL OF WICKETS 1-30, 2-73, 3-96, 4-103, 5-106, 6-106, 7-134, 8-134, 9-147

BOWLING McLean 12-0-44-1, Morris 13-4-33-2, Renshaw 16-4-43-4, Mascarenhas 10-5-8-1, Stephenson 5.4-0-20-2, Udal 3-0-9-0

Second Innings	
J J B Lewis lbw b Mascarenhas	25
M A Gough not out	26
J E Morris lbw b Mascarenhas	2
J A Daley not out	8
Extras (b 8, lb 3, w 2, nb 6)	19
Total (2 wkts, 30 overs)	**80**

FALL OF WICKETS 1-45, 2-59

BOWLING McLean 7-2-36-0, Renshaw 7-5-9-0, Morris 6-0-21-0, Mascarenhas *8-3-10-2, Udal 2-1-3-0*

Bonus points: Durham 4 Hampshire 8

Umpires N A Mallender and K E Palmer

Essex v Warwickshire

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Warwickshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 94 runs ahead of Essex

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings 271 (N M K Smith 69)

Second Innings	
N V Knight c Robinson b Ilott	5
M A Wagh not out	8
T A Munton lbw b Ilott	0
D L Hemp not out	0
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (2 wkts, 5 overs)	**14**

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-8, 2-8

BOWLING Ilott 3-1-5-2, Cowan 2-0-8-0

ESSEX: First Innings	
P J Prichard lbw b Giddins	10
D D J Robinson lbw b Giddins	9
M C Ilott lbw b Giddins	30
*N Hussain c and b Munton	7
S G Law b Munton	33
R C Irani c Hemp b Welch	12
A P Grayson c Knight b Smith	29
†B J Hyam lbw b Smith	26
A P Cowan not out	23
J O Grove b Giddins	7
P M Such lbw b Munton	1
Extras (lb 2, nb 2)	4
Total (105.1 overs)	**191**

FALL OF WICKETS 1-12, 2-31, 3-48, 4-86, 5-95, 6-122, 7-149, 8-164, 9-190

BOWLING Giddins 23-8-42-4, Welch *21-8-47-1*, Munton *21.1-8-44-3*; Giles 32-15-45-0, Smith 8-4-11-2

Bonus points. Essex 4 Warwickshire 6

Umpires J C Balderstone and D R Shepherd.

Glamorgan v Sussex

CARDIFF (second day of four) Sussex, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 209 runs ahead of Glamorgan

SUSSEX: First Innings 222 (S Humphries 57, S P Jones 5 for 31)

Second Innings	
R R Montgomerie run out	16
M T E Peirce not out	79
**C J Adams lbw b Thomas*	24
M J Di Venuto c James b Croft	4
P A Cottey c James b Croft	9
R J Kirtley lbw b Croft	0
Extras (lb 4)	4
Total (5 wkts, 48 overs)	**136**

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-35, 2-99, 3-104, 4-136, 5-136

BOWLING. Watkin 6-2-15-0; Thomas *10-2-42-1, Dale 7-5-11-0; Croft 14-3-37-3*. Jones 5-0-14-0, Cosker 6-2-13-0

GLAMORGAN: First Innings	
S P James c Peirce b Kirtley	14
A W Evans lbw b Kirtley	14
A Dale lbw b Robinson	12
D A Cosker b Kirtley	49
K Newell lbw b Robinson	6
R D B Croft *b Kirtley*	0
†A D Shaw c Di Venuto b Martin-Jenkins	16
S D Thomas c Di Venuto b Kirtley	18
S P Jones c Di Venuto b Robinson	13
S L Watkin not out	*2*
*M P Maynard absent injured	0
Extras (lb 3, nb 2)	5
Total (66.1 overs)	**149**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-38, 3-46, 4-55, 5-58, 6-99, 7-128, 8-137, 9-149

BOWLING: Kirtley 23-6-49-5; Martin-Jenkins 10-2-24-1, Rashid 10-1-31-0, Robinson 20.1-7-27-3, Rao 2-1-1-0; Peirce 1-0-14-0

Bonus points Glamorgan 4 Sussex 5

Umpires: J H Hampshire and J H Harris.

Kent v Derbyshire

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Kent, with one second-innings wicket in hand, are 49 runs ahead of Derbyshire

KENT: First Innings 141 (M J Walker 53, K J Dean 4 for 34)

Second Innings	
D P Fulton lbw b Dean	0
R W T Key c Krikken b Cork	9
A P Wells lbw b Cork	7
M J Walker c Cork b Dean	3
A Symonds c Slater b DeFreitas	25
M A Ealham not out	85
†S A Marsh b Smith	0
*M V Fleming b Smith	41
D W Headley b Smith	1
M M Patel c and b Dean	9
M J McCague not out	21
Extras (lb 5, nb 2)	7
Total (9 wkts, 69 overs)	**208**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-14, 3-17, 4-31, *5-47, 6-58, 7-118, 8-128, 9-159*

BOWLING. Cork 9-3-23-2; Dean 16-3-60-3. DeFreitas 17-4-48-1; Smith 13-4-36-3. *Aldred 12-5-30-0*. Cassar 3-1-6-0

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings	
M J Slater c Fleming b Symonds	65
A S Rollins c Key b Headley	71
R M [illegible]eston run out	2
S P Titchard c Fulton b Ealham	4
M E Cassar lbw b Headley	0
*D G Cork c Key b Ealham	82
P A J DeFreitas c Fleming b Ealham	2
†K M Krikken lbw b Headley	24
P Aldred c Marsh b Ealham	17
K J Dean c Fulton b Headley	5
T M Smith not out	0
Extras (lb 6, w 4, nb 18)	28
Total (90.1 overs)	**300**

FALL OF WICKETS 1-131, 2-137, 3-153, 4-155, 5-157, 6-159, 7-220, 8-263, 9-300

BOWLING: McCague 10-2-34-0, Headley 27.1-3-103-4, Ealham 23-4-75-4, Patel 11-4-27-0; Fleming 12-4-29-0; Symonds 7-0-26-1.

Bonus points Kent 4 Derbyshire 7

Umpires: J W Holder and R Palmer.

Leicestershire v Lancashire

LEICESTER (second day of four) Leicestershire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 151 runs ahead of Lancashire

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings	
V J Wells c Hegg b Green	44
D L Maddy c and b Green	66
I J Sutcliffe b Green	6
B F Smith c Flintoff b Smethurst	17
*J J Whitaker c Hegg b Chapple	14
A Habib c Flintoff b Green	12
†P A Nixon lbw b Chapple	25
C C Lewis c Crawley b Chapple	105
M S Kasprowicz lbw b Chapple	5
A D Mullally c Lloyd b Chapple	0
M T Brimson not out	36
Extras (b 9, lb 12, w 10, nb 4)	35
Total (115 overs)	**388**

FALL OF WICKETS 1-74, 2-82, 3-115, 4-146, 5-174, 6-195, 7-243, 8-355, 9-365

BOWLING Chapple 31-9-92-5, Smethurst *16-3-46-1*, *Flintoff* 13-2-48-0, Green 32-7-86-4, Schofield 13-2-53-0, Watkinson 8-1-33-0, Chilton 2-1-9-0

Second Innings	
D L Maddy c Hegg b Chapple	0
I J Sutcliffe not out	2
M T Brimson not out	0
Extras (lb 2)	2
Total (1 wkt, 4 overs)	**4**

FALL OF WICKET 1-0

BOWLING: Chapple 2-2-0-1, Smethurst 2-1-2-0

LANCASHIRE: First Innings	
M J Chilton c Nixon b Mullally	3
N T Wood run out	24
*J P Crawley c Nixon b Lewis	11
A Flintoff b Kasprowicz	86
G D Lloyd c Smith b Lewis	9
M Watkinson c Whitaker b Brimson	18
†W K Hegg st Nixon b Wells	36
C P Schofield b Wells	15
G Chapple c Maddy b Mullally	2
R J Green not out	14
M P Smethurst c Habib b Lewis	2
Extras (b 6, lb 3, w 6, nb 6)	21
Total (83.1 overs)	**241**

FALL OF WICKETS 1-3, 2-30, 3-72, 4-113, 5-148, 6-170, 7-197, 8-216, 9-224

BOWLING Kasprowicz 25-5-71-1, Mullally 17-6-52-2, Lewis 15.1-8-18-3, Wells 19-3-58-2; Brimson 5-0-24-1, Maddy 2-0-9-0

Bonus points Leicestershire 8 Lancashire 5

Umpires K J Lyons and A Clarkson

Northamptonshire v Surrey

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four) Northamptonshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 80 runs ahead of Surrey

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings 248 *(R J Bailey 75, J P Taylor 71, M P Bicknell 4 for 48)*

Second Innings	
R J Bailey not out	42
*M L Hayden c Bicknell b Tudor	0
M B Loye c B C Hollioake b Bicknell	47
R J Warren not out	5
Extras (b 4, lb 8, w 4, nb 8)	24
Total (2 wkts, 42 overs)	**118**

FALL OF WICKETS 1-4, 2-100

BOWLING Bicknell 15-5-38-1, Tudor 11-2-32-1, B C Hollioake 8-3-23-0, Salisbury 8-3-13-0

SURREY: First Innings	
**M A Butcher c Ripley b Taylor*	52
I J Ward c Swann b Malcolm	7
N Shahid not out	1
G P Thorpe lbw b Follett	32
A D Brown c Ripley b Penberthy	27
A J Hollioake run out	96
B C Hollioake lbw b Follett	25
†J N Batty lbw b Follett	5
A J Tudor c Bailey b Malcolm	2
I D K Salisbury c Warren b Malcolm	8
M P Bicknell c Ripley b Taylor	0
Extras (b 8, lb 11, w 2, nb 10)	31
Total (79.3 overs)	**286**

FALL OF WICKETS 1-27, 2-106, 3-108, 4-179, 5-232, 6-248, 7-264, 8-282, 9-283

BOWLING: Malcolm 23.3-3-82-3, Taylor 18-3-63-2; Follett 22-2-64-3. Swann 10-5-23-0, Penberthy 6-2-35-1

Bonus points Northamptonshire 5 Surrey 6

Umpires A A Jones and G Sharp

Notts v Worcestershire

TRENT BRIDGE (second day of four) Worcestershire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, need 191 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Nottinghamshire

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings	
U Afzaal c Rhodes b Leatherdale	12
R T Robinson c Lampitt b Liptrot	0
*J E R Gallian lbw b Lampitt	82
P Johnson c Hick b Illingworth	126
N A Gie lbw b Lampitt	36
†C M W Read b Sheriyar	41
V C Drakes c Hick b *Sheriyar*	26
P J Franks c Hick b Liptrot	3
A G Wharf b Sheriyar	20
M N Bowen lbw b Sheriyar	5
R D Stemp not out	0
Extras (b 8, lb 31, w 2, nb 25)	66
Total (122.5 overs)	**417**

FALL OF WICKETS 1-4, 2-75, 3-168, 4-277, 5-311, 6-370, 7-377, 8-383, 9-416

BOWLING Sheriyar 28.5-7-96-4, Liptrot 25-7-71-2, Haynes 11-3-28-0, Lampitt 21-4-56-2; Leatherdale 14-1-48-1, Illingworth 21-3-60-1, *Solanki 2-0-19-0*

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings	
P R Pollard c Read b Wharf	20
W P C Weston c Read b Bowen	45
G A Hick c Read b Drakes	23
V S Solanki c Gallian b Drakes	8
D A Leatherdale b Drakes	6
G R Haynes c Afzaal b Franks	7
*†S J Rhodes c Gallian b Drakes	11
R K Illingworth not out	6
A Sheriyar b Wharf	0
C G Liptrot lbw b Drakes	2
S R Lampitt absent injured	0
Extras (b 8, lb 6, nb 30)	44
Total (57.4 overs)	**172**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-62, 2-101, 3-113, 4-124, 5-138, 6-155, 7-160, 8-161, 9-172

BOWLING Drakes 18.4-6-49-5, Franks 14-3-42-1, Bowen 12-5-23-1, Wharf 13-2-44-2

Second Innings	
P R Pollard b Bowen	*14*
W P C Weston c Read b Franks	2
G A Hick not out	9
V S Solanki *not out*	13
Extras (b 1, lb 2, w 3, nb 10)	16
Total (2 wkts, 23 overs)	**54**

FALL OF WICKETS 1-12, 2-28

BOWLING. Drakes 7-4-4-0, Franks 8-2-19-1, Bowen 5-1-16-1, Wharf 3-1-12-0

Bonus points Notts 8 Worcestershire 3

Umpires B Dudleston and R A White

Somerset v Yorkshire

TAUNTON (first day of four, Yorkshire won toss) Somerset have scored 362 for six wickets against Yorkshire

SOMERSET: First Innings	
P D Bowler b Silverwood	4
*J Cox b Sidebottom	173
M E Trescothick c McGrath b Hoggard	34
P C L Holloway lbw b Sidebottom	26
M Burns c McGrath b Hoggard	63
J I D Kerr c Wood b White	12
†R J Turner not out	*29*
K A Parsons not out	6
Extras (lb 6, nb 9)	15
Total (6 wkts, 104 overs)	***362***

M P L Bulbeck, A R Caddick and P S Jones to bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-6, 2-67, 3-162, 4-300, 5-313, 6-351

BOWLING: *Silverwood 16-5-80-1, Sidebottom 19-5-68-2*, Hamilton 19-3-61-0, Hoggard 18-2-50-2; White 22-5-58-1, Vaughan 6-0-24-0; McGrath 4-1-15-0

YORKSHIRE: M P Vaughan, G S Blewett, *D Byas, M J Wood, A McGrath, C White, *†R J Blakey, G M Hamilton, C E W Silverwood*, M J Hoggard, R J Sidebottom

Bonus points Somerset 4 Yorkshire 2

Umpires: P Willey and V A Holder

Blackballing makes Scotland see red

BOWLS

By David Rhys Jones

A THREE-MAN Scotland bowls team, in *Australia for the one-off international* today at the Warilla club, near Woollongong, *encountered an antipodean colour* bar as soon as they unpacked their bowls for the first practice session.

Sonny Downs, the president of Bowls Australia, was said to have "kicked up a stink" when he saw the mould-breaking bright blue projectiles spilling on to the indoor green, and ruled them out of order.

"They certainly caused quite a stir," Willie Cook, the Scotland team manager, *said* yesterday. "People were queueing up to *take a look. The officials were not happy*, but we are conforming to the laws of the game, and will be playing with them."

Alex Marshall, Willie Wood and Ian Sneddon will also be attired in matching blue clothing. While coloured shirts are gaining in popularity, coloured trousers have not previously been worn at international level.

Coloured bowls, manufactured by Thomas Taylor, were approved by the World Bowls Board (WBB) in Kuala Lumpur last September, but the WBB inexplicably gave national associations the option to black-ball them in their own countries — and Bowls Australia has banned them.

Cynics have suggested, rather unkindly, *that Bowls Australia officials are simply protecting their own because Henselite*, Australia's leading bowls manufacturer, does not have the technology to produce coloured bowls.

David Le Marquand, from Jersey, became the first competitor to roll coloured bowls in anger on January 14, during the world indoor singles championship at Potters Leisure Resort. Afterwards, bowls followers were split: reformers believe that colour adds a modern touch; traditionalists, even in the United Kingdom, contend that the move will create confusion and devalue the sport.

To the dismay of the progressive lobby, the British Isles Indoor Bowls Council (BIIBC) have decreed that coloured bowls may not be used at any event which is under their jurisdiction. Ron Thomas, the BIIBC secretary, said: "We think it would be confusing if coloured bowls were to be used indiscriminately, but we are quite *prepared to review our decision if and* when coloured bowls become popular."

They may not become popular in Ireland. Dessie Newell, the secretary of the Association of Irish Indoor Bowls, which has yet to deliberate on the matter, said: "You must understand that colour in Ireland can be a sensitive issue. Coloured bowls could arouse strong feelings."

Yet Troy Sommerville, the manager of the Warilla club and an Australia international, said: "Our players seem very relaxed about it. They look at coloured bowls as a way of brightening up the game and attracting youngsters."

MacArthur has designs on Vendée

SAILING

By Edward Gorman

THE "Ellen MacArthur Story" reached a milestone at a restaurant in Central London yesterday when her new sponsors, Kingfisher, laid on the full razzmatazz to announce the design team for her boat for the 2000 Vendée Globe single-handed round-the-world race.

Before an invited audience of over 150, including many top British yachtsmen and sailing writers from this country and abroad, *a slick presentation placed* MacArthur in a glorious tradition of British single-handers that started with Sir Francis Chichester in the 1960s.

Michael Hingston, *director of corporate affairs at Kingfisher*, spoke warmly of the woman who only four years ago was sailing round Britain in a 21ft cruiser paid for with pocket money. "We think Ellen is a supreme example of the self-starter," he said. "Young people everywhere warm to her example and if by sponsoring her, we can encourage other *people to go for their dreams, we think* that will be an added bonus."

To judge by the expenditure and professionalism of the proceedings yesterday, it *is clear that MacArthur, who is still only* 22, is going to be the beneficiary of one of *the most complete sailing sponsorships* seen in this country, with a budget of £2 million over two years.

MacArthur and Mark Turner, her project manager, have decided not to commission Jean-Marie Finot and Pascal Conq, the French naval architects who have dominated Open 60 design in recent years, opting instead for a four-man team consisting of the designers, Rob Humphreys, and Merfyn Owen, plus *Alain Gautier, the former Vendée* Globe winner, and a technical expert, *Giovanni Belgrano, of SP Technologies*.

The decision is a risk, but one which Turner believes is well worth taking, arguing that the new safety criteria being introduced to improve stability in Open 60s makes this a good time for a new team to come into the class.

"In the end we decided that the international team approach would best suit our performance, safety and Kingfisher's objectives." *Turner said.* "There is a strong French influence and that is consistent with our strategy of working with experts in each area."

MacArthur will be busy with a hectic schedule of racing and training in the run-up to the start of the Vendée in November 2000. Among the highlights will be the Round Europe Race and the Transat Jacques Vabre, with Yves Parlier, and Laser 4000 racing with Paul Brotherton, *the Olympic helmsman*.

"This has been my dream from an early age," MacArthur said. "It has taken a lot of sweat to get this far. For the first *time I've the proper funds to compete on* an even level and I'm out there to win."

Another tycoon to buy his own club

By A Correspondent

ONE of the North East's wealthiest businessmen confirmed yesterday that he has made a takeover bid for Darlington. He is vowing to take the Nationwide League third division club into the FA Carling Premiership.

George Reynolds, whose fortune has been estimated at £250 million, has been holding talks with club officials for the past week after Darlington's appeal to local businesses for help to clear debts estimated at £3 million.

Yesterday, Reynolds promised to build a new stadium to seat 25,000 and buy players good enough to take the club into the Premiership if his bid, which depends on Mike Peden, the chief executive and majority shareholder standing down, proves successful.

Reynolds, a Sunderland supporter from Shildon, Co Durham, said: "The club asked if I was interested in sponsoring them to help clear their debts. But I quickly realised that the only way forward was for me to buy Mr Peden's holding and take full control. I think the club is a sleeping giant which could make it to the Premiership. My biggest ambition in life is proving people wrong."

According to Bernard Lowery, the club's executive director, an agreement is likely in the next few days. "The principles are in place. We just have the legal side to sort out," he said. "I think Mr Reynolds' involvement will be a tremendous boost and very exciting."

Reynolds, a former ice-cream salesman who started making kitchen worktops in the 1960s, recently made headlines in the area by paying off the mortgages of seven key staff who helped his chipboard business recover after a fire.

Portadown received a place in the Uefa Cup next season yesterday when the Irish Football Association expelled Cliftonville, their opponents in the Bass Irish Cup final, due to be played in Belfast this weekend, for fielding an ineligible player in a semi-final replay.

Brown takes stock after Scotland surprise European champions

Hutchison generates forward momentum

By Kevin McCarra



Nowotny, left, and Matthäus try to stop the progress of Hutchison in Bremen. Photograph: Clive Brunskill/Allsport

THE 1-0 defeat on Wednesday took Germany by surprise, but the victors in Bremen also ambushed themselves. Scotland were not prepared for the method and eventual excellence of their own performance. The customary batch of withdrawals had forced Craig Brown, the manager, to pick a weakened side for the match and its triumph was so surprising that elation was curbed by wonderment.

Late in the game, a clearance was lashed into the press box and caught by a Scottish journalist. "Hold on to it," a colleague urged. Given the imminence of Scotland's first away victory over Germany since 1957, the jest was instinctive. In truth, though, the ball could safely be left on the field in the second half, so completely had Brown's side made an accomplice of it.

By then, gloating Scots revelled in the kind of incident that saw Allan Johnston, the Sunderland winger, leave Thomas Strunz stumbling. When delight is quite that intense, there is a fear that it must be ephemeral. Will any of the swagger still be evident in the stark landscape of Toftir on June 5, when Scotland face the Faeroe Isles in a European championship tie?

Brown has discarded already the high emotions of Wednesday night and retained only facts. Nevertheless, they are encouraging enough. If it is too early to applaud an effective partnership in attack, there is cause to appreciate an intriguing one. Despite the fanciful claims made for Duncan Ferguson, Scotland have been without a tall forward of merit since Joe Jordan's international career ended in 1982.

In Bremen, however, Don Hutchison, of Everton, showed enough power and finesse in the air to give point to the scurrying work undertaken at ground level by Billy Dodds, of Dundee United, who harassed and constrained Lothar Matthäus. For his club, Hutchison is generally selected in midfield and his lack of pace can be a handicap in attack, but, in growing older, he has developed a style that flourishes within his limitations. His touch and distribution are reliable and Germany will vouch for the accuracy with which he dispatches the ball, given that he stroked home the only goal as the culmination of an alert move by Paul Lambert and Callum Davidson.

By scoring, Scotland extended the range of a display founded on implacable concentration. Neil Sullivan, the Wimbledon goalkeeper, kept his first clean sheet for his country, yet scarcely made a save of note. He was protected resourcefully by the superb Colin Hendry, who subjugated Oliver Bierhoff, and Tom Boyd, who has now appeared in 36 consecutive matches for Scotland. "Boyd was magnificent," Brown said of the Celtic centre back, "and he was our best player against the Czech Republic, in March, yet he never gets a mention."

Victory entitled the manager to plead for greater recognition of his side. "International football," he said, "is a much higher level than the Champions' League. Erich Ribbeck, the Germany coach, picked only three Bayern Munich players in his line-up. That means he must think he has eight players better than those at Bayern, even though that club is in the final of the Champions' League."

Brown was in no doubt of the prize that a win against Germany constituted and was fearful that he had put it in jeopardy. Given the importance of club matches at the weekend, he was obliged to keep his promise to other managers and replace key players, such as Hendry and Davidson, when wear and tear became apparent. Even selflessness has its limits, however, and Lambert was spared only the concluding six minutes.

All the same, a trace of patriotism and self-interest was entirely pardonable. The result gives Brown the rare luxury of observing another nation's distress. Although Ulf Kirsten hit the bar, Germany engineered almost no clear openings and have not remedied the flaws that saw them lose 3-0 to the United States earlier this year.

"The lack of creative players is our biggest problem," Gunter Netzer, a star of the Seventies, said, while Brown believes that they are suffering from the absence of a playmaker.

"That helped make them a poor side against us," Brown said. It was a sentence to savour. Scots have all too few opportunities to pity the reigning European champions.

Uefa ruling could smooth Ireland's path

From Russell Kempson in Dublin

THE first 150 of the 1,000 refugees from Kosovo that the Irish Government has pledged to shelter will arrive in Dublin next month, by which time the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) should have a clearer idea of what effect the Balkans crisis will have on the country's qualifying campaign for the European championship.

Ireland are in group eight, along with Yugoslavia, Croatia, FYR Macedonia and Malta, and four of the scheduled fixtures have already been cancelled. Uefa, the game's European governing body, has set up a task force to find a solution and it will report on May 11, after which the FAI should have a clearer idea of where it stands.

"We have to try to understand Uefa's position on this," Bernard O'Byrne, the FAI chief executive, said yesterday. "They have had a few games postponed. I think eight in all, so we have to be mindful that they are trying to run a whole competition and they've more to be thinking of than just Ireland.

"I think that the EU request for sporting organisations to cut their ties with Yugoslavia will be helpful to Uefa in making their decision. It has to provide them with some guidance.

"From the FAI's point of view, we are not in the business of getting anyone thrown out of the competition, but we all want to know what is going to happen."

Ireland defeated Sweden, the leaders of England's group, 2-0 at Lansdowne Road on Wednesday night and are due to engage in more meaningful encounters in Dublin, against Yugoslavia and Macedonia, on June 5 and June 9. While O'Byrne wants the games to be played, he cannot see the Yugoslavia fixture going ahead.

He does not believe, either, that Yugoslavia will agree to play their remaining home matches at a neutral venue and can foresee their expulsion from the group, which would enhance Ireland's chances of reaching the finals, to be hosted jointly by The Netherlands and Belgium next year. Macedonia, for logistical reasons, may also be unable to fulfil their fixtures.

"All the qualifying games should be played on the set dates," O'Byrne said. "If any other situation is attempted, I believe that the group could collapse. We are not interested in playing on dates that are not designated for internationals because it would create problems regarding the availability of our players. We are now at an endgame situation."

To the refugees from a ravaged Kosovo, Euro 2000 is an irrelevance, but it will continue nonetheless. Uefa, on or before May 11, must decide how to react to the repercussions of a human tragedy.

Liverpool focus on Camara's service

■ TITI CAMARA, the Marseilles striker, is close to agreeing a £3.5 million transfer to Liverpool. Camara, 27, who has been watched for several weeks by Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, said yesterday: "Everything is agreed with Liverpool and now I have to secure my release from my contract with Marseilles."

■ Wes Brown, the Manchester United defender, has signed a new five-year contract. It is a reward for Brown's rise to prominence in the past year at Old Trafford. The 20-year-old has become a regular member of United's first-team squad, the England Under-21 squad and, on Wednesday night, he won his first senior cap for England in the friendly international against Hungary in Budapest.

IN BRIEF

■ Nathan Blake, the Blackburn Rovers striker, has become the fifth player at Ewood Park to be ruled out of action for the rest of the season owing to injury. Blake, a Wales international, has damaged his shin and joins Chris Sutton, Garry Flitcroft, Billy McKinlay and Jeff Kenna as long-term casualties at the club.

■ Kevin Campbell, the Everton striker, was yesterday confirmed as the Carling player of the month for April. Campbell, who is on loan at Goodison Park until the end of the season from Trabzonspor, the Turkey club, has scored six goals in three FA Carling Premiership games to ease Everton's relegation fears.

■ Lee Bowyer, the Leeds United midfield player, escaped a suspension yesterday after a disciplinary hearing at the Football Association's headquarters in Lancaster Gate. Bowyer was fined just £750 after picking up 11 bookings so far this season.

■ Newcastle United have made a £3.9 million bid for Marcelino, the Real Mallorca central defender, according to reports in the Spanish press yesterday.

Women reap rich rewards

By Jen O'Neill

IT HAS been quite a season for Sue Smith. The Tranmere Rovers and England forward was yesterday named the AXA FA Women's Premier Players' player of the year for the national division and the Nationwide international player of the year — all in a year in which the 19-year-old also represented a Fifa All-Star side against the United States. In fact, it has been quite a season for women's football.

The inaugural FA Women's Football Awards, sponsored by AXA, is just one of the many developments that have taken place over the season. Participation figures and league structures continue to grow, 20 female centres of excellence have been set up and attendances are on the rise.

The gradual elevation in the profile of the sport has gained momentum with sponsorship and increasing media awareness. Sepp Blatter, the president of Fifa, the sport's world governing body, has often declared that "the future of football is female" and, if the third World Cup, being held in the United States in June, is as successful as the early signs suggest, then not just the enthusiasts will recognise the name and face of Mia Hamm, for example.

More girls will have started playing football because of David Beckham or Michael Owen, but role models do exist within the women's game. Yet the sport still relies on the dedication of people who have invested much of their life into football with little recognition. It is because of this that *The Times* and *On the Ball*, the women's football magazine, have jointly sponsored a special achievement award.

The winner, voted by the readers of *On the Ball*, was Sylvia Gore. Having first kicked a ball when she was four, she joined Manchester Corinthians at 14, scoring 50 goals in her first season. With them, she travelled the world, playing a game in front of 80,000 spectators in South America. The record books show that she scored the first official goal for an England women's side, in a 3-2 victory over Scotland in 1972.



GAVIN FOGG

Since coaching Wales in the Eighties, Sylvia Gore has worked tirelessly to promote women's football in Britain

After managing Wales from 1982 to 1989, a back injury forced Sylvia to give up work and playing. It did not end her devotion to the game: she now concentrates her energies on developing girls' and women's football on Merseyside.

If Arsène Wenger's side fail to lift a trophy this season, Arsenal supporters can take heart in the success of the women's team, who have already won the League Cup and play Southampton Saints in the AXA FA Women's Cup final on Monday at The Valley.

OTHER AWARD WINNERS: Players' Player: Northern division: Kelly Biney (Sheffield Wednesday). Southern division: Angela Banks (Whitehawk). Walker's Young Player of the Year: Kate Chapman (Millwall Lionesses). Umbro Most Improved Team: Southampton Saints.

□ *Jen O'Neill is Editor of* On the Ball *magazine.*

Troubled Barrow plan their escape

Non-League Football by Walter Gammie

A 3-0 WIN at Frickley Athletic on Tuesday night clinched Altrincham the last of the promotion places to the Nationwide Conference. The victory guaranteed them second place in the UniBond League and, with Worksop Town, the only team able to overhaul them, not applying for promotion, the return of the founder members after an absence of two seasons was assured.

With Nuneaton Borough and Sutton United having secured their return to the Conference, the only issue to be settled is whether Welling United or Barrow will be relegated. They are level on points, with Welling having the better goal difference by three.

Welling travel to Cheltenham Town, who will complete their title celebrations by receiving the Conference trophy, and Barrow end their season away to Kidderminster Harriers, where Phil Mullen steps down after five months as caretaker manager. Jan Molby takes over next season.

Barrow, who are in administration, have soldiered on thanks to the enthusiasm of their supporters — 2,176 turning out for the home match against Woking last Saturday. Their future remains uncertain. Should they stay up, it is by no means certain that a company trading as Barrow AFC 1999 Ltd will be acceptable to the Conference.

There is a fight to the finish for promotion in the southern division of the Dr Martens League. Havant and Waterlooville clinched promotion — and the title — when they beat Andover on Tuesday. Either Margate, away to Brackley Town, the bottom club, or Folkestone Invicta, who travel to Newport IoW, will go up with them. They start level on points, with Margate enjoying the superior goal difference.

Clubs fined after brawl at semi-final

By Our Sports Staff

BOLOGNA and Marseilles have been fined by Uefa, the European governing body, for the brawl at the end of their Uefa Cup semi-final second leg match last week.

Uefa announced that Bologna would be fined SwFr99,000 (around £60,000) and three players would be suspended, while Marseilles would be fined SwFr125,000 with two players suspended.

Massimo Gonnella, a Uefa spokesman, said after a meeting in Geneva of Uefa's control and disciplinary body that a fine of SwFr5,000 would be imposed on Rolland Courbis, the Marseilles coach, and that his son, Stéphane, a member of the French club's backroom staff, would be suspended from official functions at Uefa club matches for one year.

The violence broke out after Marseilles scored a late equalising goal to make the score 1-1 and ensure their place in the final.

The possibility of Poland being thrown out of the European championship receded yesterday when, bowing to demands by Fifa, the world governing body, the Polish Soccer Union agreed to hold a national congress to elect new management. The present leaders have been accused of mismanagement.

The board of the union made the decision after receiving a letter from Fifa demanding that the election of the union's board be carried out by the end of June. The federation had earlier defied Fifa calls to set an election date.

The new election is seen as a solution to the conflict between Marian Dziurowicz, the union president, and Jacek Debski, the minister for sport. Polish clubs also have demanded the president's resignation.

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Penaud leaves Saracens deflated

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

A SEASON in which Saracens have declined from Tetley's Bitter Cup holders and Allied Dunbar Premiership runners-up to also-rans in both competitions received further discouragement yesterday when the club confirmed that Alain Penaud would return to France next month. The fly half has another two years of his contract to run, but he is going home for family reasons.

Penaud, 29, was signed last season from Brive as a replacement for Michael Lynagh, the Australian, who did so much to elevate the club. Penaud, however, has not been able to exercise the same generalship and his wife, Vanessa, has found it difficult to settle in London.

"I am disappointed, but I must listen to my wife and young son, Damon," Penaud, who has played 30 games for France, said. "I am still determined to help Saracens qualify for Europe."

Toulouse would be interested in signing Penaud, as a back-up to Yann Delaigue, but his departure leaves Saracens — eighth in the first division — casting round for a top-quality fly half. There are very few of the requisite standard and most of those will be on World Cup duty for the first three months of next season.

The French Rugby Federation has agreed a new contract worth nearly £20 million with France TV, the terrestrial channel, that will run until 2002. This will be a further source of annoyance to the Rugby Football Union, castigated by the other home unions for their desire to negotiate their own television agreements.

Meanwhile, Leicester, who will win the Premiership if they beat Newcastle Falcons on Sunday, may have problems filling the No 10 jersey if injuries to Pat Howard and Geordan Murphy do not heal.

RUGBY UNION

Rotherham aim for rarefied air on a shoestring

Mark Souster finds a homely Yorkshire club preparing for a tilt at the giants

MONEY talks, doesn't it? Well, yes and no. There cannot be a game this weekend in the Allied Dunbar Premiership that illustrates quite so graphically the financial disparity in professional rugby union as that between Worcester and Rotherham.

Worcester, backed by the largesse of Cecil Duckworth, have facilities which are so good that New Zealand will base themselves there before the World Cup. Rotherham, homely and homespun, were so economically stretched earlier in the season that they went into administration. Their ground, owned by the local authority, is shared with a cricket team and has one tiny stand. For years, Rotherham were looked down on by dismissive neighbours such as Sheffield.

Until last week Rotherham and Worcester were vying for promotion from the second division, but the latter's defeat away to Coventry ended their chances. Yet Rotherham have motored on, building on success away to Bristol to put together a run of 15 straight wins that leaves them on the brink of elevation to the promised land of the first division. By any standard, theirs is a heartwarming story.

No one individual epitomises what the club is about, and its place at the heart of the community, more than John Dudley, who has served it as man and boy. The lock forward joined 16 years ago and now, at the age of 32, belatedly finds himself a professional player able to contemplate a tilt at the big time.

He has to pinch himself to make sure that it is not a dream, for he well remembers starting his playing career on a parks pitch and combining rugby with a multitude of jobs, including nightclub bouncer and steelworker.

"My attitude has had to change, you have to look after yourself," he said. "Every game has been a big game recently, everyone has wanted to knock us off our perch. Everybody has looked at us as upstarts, asking how a small town like Rotherham can do so well. It just goes to show that money doesn't buy you loyalty. It won't buy you commitment. They come from being together, playing together, and doing everything for one another."

The club's success has put a smile on the faces of local people, and these smiles will stretch to a broad beam if, against all the odds, Rotherham make it. They stand level on points with Bristol with two matches remaining, and their points differential is only slightly inferior.

If they beat Worcester and then Moseley, and Bristol slip up at all, then Rotherham's fairytale will be complete. It will be the eighth occasion in 12 heady seasons that they have achieved promotion during a journey that began in 1988 in the nether reaches of North East 1. They would prefer to go up as champions rather than have to endure the play-offs, as they did last year when losing over two legs to London Irish.

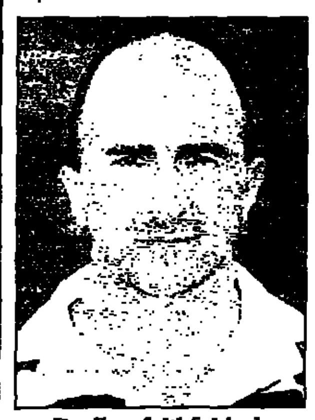
The turnaround this season has been remarkable after an indifferent start. The support of local creditors and careful husbandry has enabled the club to overcome its financial difficulties while the players shook off any feelings of inferiority and started to believe in themselves.

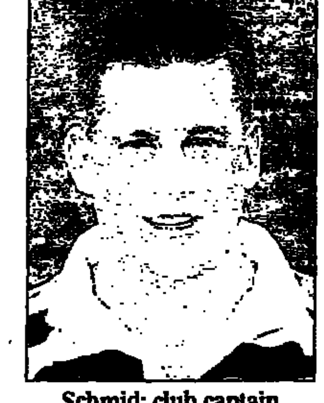
Promotion carries with it a health warning, as Steve Cousins, the rugby manager, freely admitted. "It's an exciting prospect but also slightly terrifying," he said. What they don't want to do is to ape West Hartlepool and yo-yo between the divisions.

Going up might mean having to leave their Clifton Lane sports ground to share with Rotherham United down the road at Millmoor. The prospect of the formation of a Yorkshire super club, involving a merger between themselves, Leeds Tykes and Wakefield, has also been mooted. "We don't want to think about it until after the last game, if we have to," Cousins said.

Although Yorkshire grit runs through the core of the side, it has successfully integrated some overseas players, among them Mike Umaga, Greg Austin and Mike Schmid, the Canada international, who joined two years ago and is now captain.

Dudley, asked if he felt envious of Worcester's material riches, replied: "No. I am sure they're envious of us. We're assured of the play-offs at least and they're not. So how can we envy them?" Point taken.


Dudley: faithful lock


Schmid: club captain


BEN DUFFY

Finch has enjoyed huge coaching success at an age when many are still playing

Finch steels himself for momentous finale

BASKETBALL

By Nicholas Harling

SHOULD Chris Finch stride out at Wembley tomorrow feeling sated by the success that has come to him in his first two seasons in charge of Sheffield Sharks, then he would have the perfect excuse. At 29, an age when most sportsmen have yet to reach their peak as players, Finch has come dangerously close to achieving all that he can as a coach.

His impact has been such that when he was named Budweiser coach of the year this week, it was one of the formalities of the season, one matched only by Terrell Myers, the Sharks playmaker, collecting the players' award. Had anybody else been honoured, it would have been a travesty.

With considerable help from a few others, Finch and Myers have made the Sharks the team of the year, whatever happens at Wembley in the Budweiser championship play-off finals. Winners of the double already, they are seeking to round off a momentous season by completing the treble, a feat managed only once before, in 1996 by London Towers under Kevin Cadle, a coach vastly more experienced than the young Pennsylvanian.

"Don't get me wrong," Finch said, "I still love playing. Ideally, I would have played for another year or two, but I find the challenge of coaching is much greater than the satisfaction of playing."

His chance came two summers ago, when Jim Brandon left for Manchester Giants, recommending Finch as his successor. "I was very thankful for Jim," Finch said, "even though, at 27, I stopped playing just as I was entering my prime. My numbers [statistics] had only gone down in my final year because the number of foreigners went up."

His first season in charge brought modest success, a triumph in the Uni-Ball Trophy final over London Towers, the same club — albeit much changed — that the Sharks face in the first semi-final tomorrow. Dispensing with John Amaechi and Mark Robinson, Finch brought in Matt Gaudio and Travis Conlan, promoted Wil Johnson and found the perfect blend until Gaudio ruptured his anterior cruciate knee ligament after only a third of the season. Peter Scantlebury, the veteran England captain, who was out of favour at Newcastle Eagles, was recruited, with surprising success.

"Everything happens for a reason. I knew that Pete could guard people like John McCord [of Thames Valley Tigers] and Tony Dorsey [of Manchester Giants]," Finch said, naming, coincidentally, a player from each of the other semi-finalists, either of whom could face his Sharks in the final on Sunday.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Davis Cup returns to indoor arena

■ **TENNIS:** The National Indoor Arena (NIA) in Birmingham has been selected as the venue for Great Britain's Davis Cup world group play-off against South Africa. The Lawn Tennis Association chose the NIA where, despite defeat in the Davis Cup match to the United States over the Easter weekend, the three-day event sold out. The capacity has been set at 8,000 and tickets for the tie will go on sale on May 6.

■ **ATHLETICS:** Catherina McKiernan, who was unable to defend her Flora London Marathon title earlier this month because of injury, has turned her sights towards the Chicago Marathon on October 24 (David Powell writes). McKiernan, from Ireland, is unbeaten in three marathons, with a best of 2hr 22min 23sec, and she appears to be planning to challenge the world record of 2hr 20min 47sec, held by Tegla Loroupe, of Kenya, on what is a fast course.

■ **RUGBY UNION:** The South African Rugby Football Union is negotiating with Nick Mallett, the South Africa coach, to extend his contract when it expires after the World Cup. Mallett became the most successful Springboks coach in 1998 when he took the team to 17 consecutive wins.

■ **RUGBY LEAGUE:** Plans were unveiled yesterday to turn Odsal, home of the Bradford Bulls, into a smaller version of the Stadium of Light in Sunderland. Sterling Capitol, has been given the go-ahead by Bradford Council to spend £80 million on turning Odsal into a sports and leisure complex that incorporates a 30,000-capacity stadium.

■ **ICE HOCKEY:** Ivan Matulik, the inspirational Cardiff Devils captain, signed a new three-year contract with the club yesterday. The deal will keep Matulik, who scored both goals in his side's 2-1 Sekonda Superleague play-off win over Nottingham Panthers in April, with the Devils until 2002.

Taking the mike from our game

Gerald Davies says that wiring referees for sound is no help to players or viewers

Television can, on occasions, be uncomfortably intrusive. In its desire to be as informative as possible in its coverage, the medium can trespass into private grief or, less seriously, but still worthy of attention, it may invade or impair our view of sport. In appealing to our voyeuristic tendencies and wishing to expose the skull beneath the skin, rugby may be in danger of exposing too much.

Sports commentators can and, regrettably, do take sides, unaware or impervious to the fact that viewers may not all see eye-to-eye with his persuasion or prejudice. In this way the commentator risks alienating at least a part of his audience. While the commentator may be moved to betray his emotions by the sway of exciting events, he has to remain dispassionate in his view of the contestants themselves.

The viewer must warm to the commentator. He is, after all, a guest in our living room. We need to feel comfortable in his presence. But it is not just one commentator any more, because for some time the practice has stretched to include a sidekick. And, no sooner than that has become the accepted style, there is suddenly, in rugby, a third ... the referee.

Electronically-linked, the referee's comments are heard directly by the viewer. This does not happen in any other sport, so why should it be in rugby? Indeed, in South Africa the referee's comments are heard by the crowd over the loudspeaker system at the stadium.

Rugby is clearly a complicated affair. So much so that it is universally accepted these days that referees are expected "to manage the game". Is this in some way an admission of defeat by the lawmakers? Surely the job of the referee is not to supervise the running of a game according to the way he wishes, as if he is conducting a training session; nor to carry on a running commentary advising the two teams on the rights and wrongs of the manner of their play. Rather it is his task to officiate objectively and dispassionately.

The idea that the game needs to be "managed" is a curious phenomenon for an activity to determine which is the better of two teams. This is a disturbing trend. Two weeks ago, Llanelli played Cardiff in the semi-final of the SWALEC Cup. The referee was so connected that the television viewer could hear every word that he uttered during the match. On this occasion the referee did not stop shouting his commands. "Release the ball" ... "Take your hands off it" ... "Get back in the three-quarters" ... "Play on, play on". It was as if he were conducting a somewhat vociferous seminar with ill-educated students.

Not only was this obtrusive but also faintly ridiculous that a sport with pretensions to professionalism and global expansion should be conducted in this way. Implicit perhaps in this behaviour is a quiet admission that rugby is so difficult to play that players need to be advised what they can and cannot do. He is manufacturing excitement; television allowing us to hear more than we need and, under pressure, the expletives, too.

Indeed, might not a referee, in giving his commands, become an unwitting collaborator in being heard to be favouring one team more than the other; advising one side to release the ball, for instance, and giving a player time to do so, while instantly penalising another for not doing so?

Does television need to be intrusive in this way? Hearing all this, might not the referee be thought of as a nuisance to the armchair viewer? Might he not also be thought of as moving away from the fair and authoritative arbiter of the laws that he is meant to be? Does television need to expose him in this way?

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Minnesota 4 Boston 9; Chicago White Sox 10 Tampa Bay 7 (first game). Chicago White Sox 9 Tampa Bay 1 (second game). Kansas City 8 Baltimore 2; Texas 8 New York Yankees 6. Anaheim 12 Toronto 10; Oakland 1 Cleveland 4. Seattle 8 Detroit 6

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Florida 1 Chicago Cubs 6. Milwaukee 2 Los Angeles 3. Montreal 3 San Francisco 4. Philadelphia 8 Cincinnati 12. New York Mets 4 San Diego 3. Atlanta 5 Pittsburgh 4. Houston 6 Arizona 10. St Louis 7 Colorado 9

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta 78 New York 73. Detroit 101 New Jersey 93. Orlando 93 Washington 86. Minnesota 97 Phoenix 92. Milwaukee 115 Toronto 102. Portland 119 Seattle 84

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Slovenia 1 Finland 1. Poland 2 Czech Republic 1. Denmark 1 South Africa 1. Romania 1 Belgium 0; Greece 1 Switzerland 1. The Netherlands 1 Morocco 2; Malta 1 Iceland 2

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group two: Georgia 1 Norway 4. Latvia 0 Albania 0. **Qualifying group six:** Austria 7 San Marino 0

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group two: Latvia 0 Albania 0; Georgia 0 Norway 3. **Qualifying group six:** The Netherlands 1 Austria 0. **Qualifying group nine:** Belgium 4 Bosnia 0

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Forest Green 0 Dover 1. Kingstonian 0 Southport 2.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Farsley Celtic 1 Whitley Bay 2

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Salisbury 2 Gresley 2; Rothwell 1 Worcester 2. **Midland division:** Solihull Borough 3 Weston-super-Mare 0. **Southern division:** Witney 0 Yate 0

RYMAN LEAGUE: First division: Maidenhead 0 Canvey Island 2. Romford 0 Molesey 0. Wealdstone 2 Hitchin 1. **Third division:** Epsom and Ewell 0 Wingate and Finchley 2

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bustleholme 1 Ettingshall 0. Wolverhampton 1 Stafford 7

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Barnet 0 Chelsea 1. Brentford 0 Fulham 3. Cambridge 2 West Ham 1. Ipswich 4 Watford 1. Brighton 0 Reading 1

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Leicester 0 Birmingham 0; Manchester Utd 4 Leeds 1. Nottm Forest 1 Blackburn 0. Preston 1 Liverpool 0. Aston Villa 3 Everton 0. **First division:** Middlesbrough 4 Coventry 3. **Second division:** Blackpool 0 Shrewsbury 2. Bradford 0 Wrexham 1. Huddersfield 1 Newcastle 0. Lincoln 0 Sheffield Utd 2. Notts County 1 Rotherham 1. Scarborough 1 Stockport 0. **Third division:** Bury 1 Darlington 2. Chester 2 Chesterfield 1. Halifax 1 Hartlepool 1. Scunthorpe 2 Walsall 1. Wigan 1 Hull 1

OTHER MATCH: Barcelona 2 Brazil XI 2.

GOLF

TURIN: Fiat and Fila Italian Open: Leading first-round scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): **62:** M Lanner (Swe). **65:** P Nyman (Swe), G Evans. **66:** D Cooper, R Claydon. **67:** S Gallacher, P Sjoland (Swe), P Mitchell, F Cea (Sp). **68:** M A Jiménez (Sp), G Turner (NZ), F Valera (Sp), J van de Velde (Fr), P Harrington, D Carter. **69:** M Campbell (NZ), A Oldcorn, B Lane, D Howell, M McNulty (Zim), J Berendt (Arg), M Anglert (Swe), E Romero (Arg), A Coltart, R Goosen (SA), J Moseley (Aus), A Sobrinho (Por), R Davis (Aus), S Hansen (Den), P Broadhurst

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Stanley Cup play-offs: Eastern Conference: Boston 4 Carolina 1 (best-of-seven series tied 2-2). Philadelphia 5 Toronto 2 (series tied 2-2). **Western Conference:** Colorado 2 San Jose 4 (Colorado lead series 2-1)

ROWING

WINGFIELD SCULLS: 1, G Searle (Molesey) 21min 56sec; 2, T Gale (Tideway Scullers) 22:05; 3, G Monnickendam (Notts County) 22:27; 4, M Hunter (Poplar and Blackwall) 22:38

RUGBY LEAGUE

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Rochdale 18 York 10

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: Premier division play-offs: Group A: Neath 43 Ebbw Vale 39. Pontypridd 12 Llanelli 42. **Group B:** Aberavon 26 Bridgend 68. Newport 16 Caerphilly 35. **First division:** UWIC 29 Tondu 17.

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: **Leg 4b** (Singapore to Seychelles; with miles to finish): 1, Mermerus (B Sollars) 1,871; 2, Ariel (A Thomson) 1,877; 3, Serica (R Dean) 1,879; 4, Antiope (K Harris) 1,887; 5, Thermopylae (M Tod) 1,896; 6, Chrysolite (T Hedges) 1,898; 7, Taeping (N Fleming) 1,928

SNOOKER

THE CRUCIBLE, Sheffield: Embassy world championship: Quarter-finals: J Higgins (Scot) bt S Lee (Eng) 13-6; S Hendry (Scot) bt M Stevens (Wales) 13-5. **Semi-final:** M Williams (Wales) leads Higgins 5-3

SQUASH

LINZ, Austria: European team championship: Qualifying round: Men: Pool A: Scotland 4 France 0; Finland 3 Switzerland 1. **Scotland 4 Finland 0** (P Nicol bt J Raumolin 9-3, 3-9, 9-3, 9-0; M Heath bt J Kyttanen 9-10, 9-0, 9-5, 9-2; J White bt O Tuominen 9-5, 1-9, 9-5, 9-2; N Frankland bt O Poutiainen 5-9, 5-9, 9-4, 9-1, 9-6). France 2 Switzerland 2 (France win 7-6 on games count-back). **Pool B:** England 4 Sweden 0; Wales 3 Germany 1. **Pool C:** Greece 2 Israel 2 (Greece win 9-7 on games count-back). The Netherlands 3 Greece 1. **Pool D:** Austria 4 Portugal 0, **Austria 3 Ireland 1** (C Wallishuser lost to D Ryan 4-9, 4-9, 4-9; G Schiedbauer bt P Foster 9-5, 9-4, 9-0; D Huck-Sabitzer bt C Collins 9-3, 2-9, 2-9, 9-3, 9-4; L Czaska bt J Rooney 9-6, 9-4, 2-9, 0-9, 9-2). **Pool E:** Belgium 4 Czech Republic 0; Italy 4 Bulgaria 0. Belgium 2 Italy 2 (Belgium win 6-6 on games count-back). Czech Republic 4 Bulgaria 0. **Pool F:** Spain 4 Cyprus 0. Denmark 4 Hungary 0. **Women: Pool A: England 3 Belgium 0** (C Jackman bt K Hannes 9-0, 9-0, 9-1; S Bond bt K Cauwels 9-7, 9-7, 9-3; T Bailey bt T Hannes 9-1, 9-1, 9-0); **Scotland 3 Sweden 0** (P Nimmo bt J Akerval 9-2, 9-3, 3-9, 9-3; C Waddell bt C Olsson 9-0, 9-0, 9-0; S Macfie bt M Lundmark 9-7, 9-3, 9-0). **Switzerland 2 Wales 1** (A Muller lost to T Malik 0-9, 1-9, 2-9; G Schmole bt K Hogan 9-5, 9-4, 4-9, 10-8; D Hauser bt S Johnson 9-2, 9-1, 9-0). **Pool D: Ireland 3 Italy 0** (A Blake bt A Sterchele 10-8, 9-5, 9-1; O French bt C Ferrari 9-2, 9-7, 9-1; L Mylotte bt F Danelli 9-0, 9-0, 9-3). Denmark 3 Austria 0

TENNIS

ATLANTA: AT&T Challenge: First round: M Mirnyi (Bela) bt V Spadea (US) 7-5, 6-3; G Blanco (Sp) bt M Norman (Swe) 6-4, 7-6; J Gmelstob (US) bt J-M Gambill (US) 6-0, 6-4. **Second round:** A Martin (Sp) bt G Canas (Arg) 7-6, 7-6; S Koubek (Austria) bt M Chang (US) 6-1, 6-4.

MUNICH: Bavarian Masters: Second round: L Burgsmuller (Ger) bt O Gross (Ger) 6-1, 6-3; M Zabaleta (Arg) bt C Vinck (Ger) 6-4, 6-4; F Squillari (Arg) bt T Haas (Ger) 6-2, 6-7, 6-1; M Kohlmann (Ger) bt W Ferreira (SA) 6-7, 6-4, 7-5

HAMBURG GRAND PRIX: First round: A-G Sidot (Fr) bt I Spirlea (Rom) 6-7, 6-2, 7-6; S Farina (It) bt E Dementieva (Russ) 6-3, 6-1; G Leon Garcia (Sp) bt J Nejedly (Can) 6-2, 7-5; B Schett (Austria) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 3-6, 6-2, 7-6. **Second round:** A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt M A Sánchez-Lorenzo (Sp) 6-3, 6-0; C Martinez (Sp) bt A Glass (Ger) 4-6, 7-5, 6-1; Schett bt N Tauziat (Fr) 3-6, 6-4, 6-0; M Pierce (Fr) bt Sidot 6-2, 5-7, 7-5; Farina bt D van Roost (Bel) 2-6, 7-5, 7-6.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Begin Bridge with *The Times*: Lesson 54 – Play with Touching Honours

In Lesson 52 I said that when you were on lead with two (or more) touching honours you should lead the top of the sequence. There is a good reason for this. Consider the following lay-out (against a suit contract):

	765	
Q led		A832

Suppose that your style was to lead honours randomly; sometimes you led the queen from queen-jack and sometimes from king-queen. Would you like your partner to play the ace at trick one and find that the lay-out was:

	765	
KQ4		A832
	J109	

Or should he play small and find the suit distributed:

	765	
QJ109		A832
	K	

Defence is harder than declarer play because the defending side can see only half of its side's assets. To defend accurately you need to be able to build up a clear picture of the whole hand and you can only do so if your partner gives you helpful information.

Now look at the situation from the other side of the table:

	985	
2 led		QJ6

Do you play the queen or the jack to the first trick? The answer is to play the jack, the lower of touching honours. Suppose the lay-out is:

	985	
K1042		QJ6
	A73	

When declarer wins your jack with his ace, your partner will know that you hold the queen, for if declarer held the ace and queen he would have won with the queen. If you were to play the queen, partner would not know who had the jack.

This is not to be confused with the opening lead where you lead the top of touching honours. If you are the first player in your partnership to play to a trick you play the top of touching honours; if your partner has already played to the trick you play the lowest.

☐ You can get any lessons you have missed from this beginners' course by sending two 26p stamps per lesson (or five stamps per set of five) to Sally Brock, 73 Totteridge Lane, High Wycombe HP13 7QA. Don't forget to state which ones you want.



KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Crushing victories

One of the stars of the Hampstead grandmaster section was Irina Krush, 15, from New York who finished with a respectable score and annihilated various strong male opponents. Here are two samples of her energetic style.

White: Irina Krush
Black: Alexei Barsov
Hampstead 1999

Nimzo-Indian Defence

	White	Black
1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Bb4
4	Qc2	c5
5	dxc5	0-0
6	a3	Bxc5
7	Nf3	h6
8	Bf4	Nh5
9	Bd2	Nc6
10	g4	Nf6
11	g5	hxg5
12	Bxg5	Nd4
13	Nxd4	Bxd4
14	Rg1	Qa5
15	Bh6	Ne8
16	Bd2	Qh5
17	Bg2	f5
18	Bf4	d6
19	Bf3	Qf7
20	Nb5	Be5
21	Bxe5	dxe5
22	e4	Bd7
23	Nc3	Bc6
24	Qe2	Nf6
25	exf5	exf5
26	Bxc6	bxc6
27	0-0-0	e4
28	Rg5	Qe6
29	Qe3	Ng4
30	Qg3	Rf7
31	c5	Qe7
32	Rh5	g6
33	Rh4	Rh7
34	Rxh7	Kxh7
35	Rd6	Ne5
36	Kb1	Re8
37	Ne2	Qg7
38	Nf4	Rb8
39	Qc3	Rb7
40	Ne6	Qf6
41	Qh3+	Kg8
42	Rd8+	Kf7
43	Qh7+	Kxe6
44	Rd6	checkmate

White: Irina Krush
Black: Jonny Hector
Hampstead 1999

Semi-Slav Defence

	White	Black
1	d4	d5
2	c4	c6
3	Nc3	Nf6
4	e3	e6
5	Nf3	Nbd7
6	Qc2	Bd6
7	Be2	e5
8	cxd5	cxd5
9	Nb5	Bb8
10	dxe5	Nxe5
11	Bd2	Ne4
12	Bb4	Nc6
13	Ba3	a6
14	Nbd4	Qa5+
15	Kf1	Bd7
16	Rd1	Nb4
17	Qb3	Bd6
18	Bxb4	Bxb4
19	Nc2	Bd2
20	Qxb7	Rc8
21	Ncd4	Bb4
22	Qxa6	0-0
23	a3	Nd2+
24	Nxd2	Bxd2
25	b4	Qa4
26	Qxa4	Bxa4
27	Rb1	Rc3
28	g3	Rxa3
29	Kg2	Bc3
30	b5	Rb8
31	Rhc1	g6
32	b6	Bxd4
33	exd4	Rb3
34	Rxb3	Bxb3
35	Rc6	Ba4
36	Rf6	Kf8
37	g4	h6
38	h4	Ke7
39	g5	hxg5
40	hxg5	Bd7
41	Ba6	Be6
42	b7	Kd6
43	Rf3	Kc7
44	Rc3+	Kb6
45	Rc8	Kxa6
46	Rxb8	Ka7
47	Rc8	Kxb7
48	Rc5	Black resigns

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PRECES
a. What went before
b. Petitions
c. Prefects at Mill Hill

ROGER DE COVERLEY
a. A Walter Mitty
b. Transparent excuses
c. A dance

PRAIRIAL
a. Rustic
b. A month
c. A pick-me-up

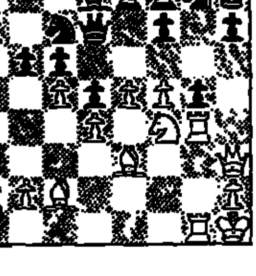
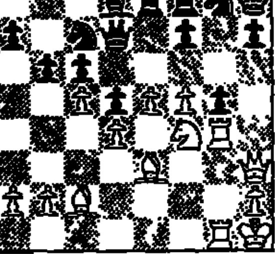
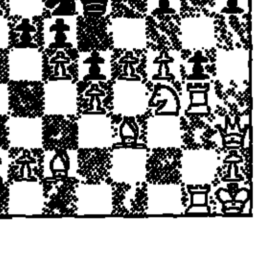
ROTULA
a. A merry-go-round
b. A scab
c. The kneecap

Answers on page 58

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Kobalija — Nalbandian, Moscow 1999. Can you spot White's brilliant finish which ensured that the game will be published all around the world?

Solution on page 58

SNOOKER

Williams revels in bid to beat the odds

By Phil Yates

KEVIN BOND, a factory worker from Llanelli, watched the first session of the Embassy world championship semi-finals on television yesterday with more than just a passing patriotic interest in the fortunes of Mark Williams.

Nine years ago, when Williams was a starry-eyed 14-year-old amateur, Bond was astonished by his potting skills. After their paths crossed in a club in South Wales, Bond immediately sought out his bookmaker and placed a £140 bet, at odds of 300-1, on Williams to capture the world title by 2000.

As Williams established a 5-3 lead over John Higgins, Bond's speculative wager looked to be the stuff of inspiration. Higgins, the defending champion, played well, but the Welshman cranked up his game a notch or two higher.



Williams: impressive

Williams beat Stephen Hendry 10-9 on a re-spotted black in the final of the Benson and Hedges Masters last year, but this season has been his most fruitful, with triumphs in the Welsh Open, Irish Open and Thailand Masters.

He has beaten Ian McCulloch, Nick Walker and Ken Doherty to reach the semi-finals of the world championship for a second year in succession and the confidence inevitably generated by his recent form was very much in evidence against Higgins.

Trailing 45-0 in the first frame, Higgins fashioned a 72 clearance, even though the balls were uninvitingly spread, but, with a 2-0 lead beckoning, he missed a routine black off its spot and thereby committed one of the few unforced errors of a high-quality afternoon's play.

Williams cleared to blue and, after chipping in the initial red from distance, constructed a break of 104 to lead 2-1. By now it was clear that Higgins was encountering much sterner opposition than in his previous two matches, when he emerged from the first session 8-0 ahead.

The fourth frame, the only scrappy affair of the day, fell to Higgins before the following two were shared, with runs of 101 from Williams and 126 from Higgins. Williams, the world No 5 and very much an underdog, accounted for the next two frames with contributions of 66 and 92 to ensure overnight supremacy.

The semi-finals, over the best of 33 frames and four sessions, provide the ideal conditions for fluctuating momentum and Higgins knows that while Williams has got the better of their first skirmish, he remains a long way short of achieving overall success. The Scot will also be heartened by his one-sided head-to-head record against Williams — he has lost only two of their ten meetings — but, nevertheless, he will appreciate that the gauntlet has been thrown down.

"I feel like I am going to beat John," Williams, who is not known as a boastful sort, said on Wednesday. "I've been waiting to play him all season. I couldn't be happier with my form and I don't feel under any pressure out there."

The other semi-final, between Hendry and Ronnie O'Sullivan, promised an equally high level of entertainment and its course is just as difficult to foresee, pitching, as it does, Hendry, level-headed and consistent, against O'Sullivan, wildly inconsistent, but, on occasions, unstoppable.

John Parrott described the composition of the semi-finals this year as "collectively the finest ever" and it is hard to disagree. If Hendry is to fulfil his burning ambition to win his seventh championship, a record for the modern era, it will be perhaps his greatest achievement.

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.embassysnooker.com — official tournament site

TELEVISION: BBC2, 1.10, 6.50, 9.30pm.



PAUL SEVERN / ALLSPORT

Driving onwards: Sam Torrance on his way to a first-round 70 in Turin yesterday

Lanner's record 62 leaves his rivals in the shade



From Mel Webb in Turin

MATS LANNER went hunting for ornithological wildlife yesterday and ended up bagging such a haul that he had to carry it home in a truck. His first act was to pluck a protected species out of the sky and he then contented himself with the tail feathers of nine more smaller, but equally valuable, specimens; the result was bloodless mayhem in the Italian countryside.

Lanner, 38, is one of a few Swedish golfers who could claim to have achieved veteran status — this is his eighteenth year on the European Tour — and he used every last milligram of his experience as he assembled a remarkable course-record round of 62 that gave him a three-stroke lead after the first round of the Fiat and Fila Italian Open at Circologolf.

There is not much that is new to Lanner after all those long years of trudging the tournament treadmill, but this was — never before has he beaten par by ten strokes in 18 holes. "When I'm hot, I'm hot," he said. Hot? He left scorch marks on the greens.

Life has been good to Swedish golfers these past few days. Jesper Parnevik won the Greater Greensboro Classic on Sunday, a few hours after Jarmo Sandelin had taken the Spanish Open title. Now here was Lanner and, just to emphasise the point, Per Nyman, his compatriot, shared second place with Gary Evans on 65. Derrick Cooper and Russell Claydon did their bit for Queen, country and bank balance with matching rounds of 66.

Lanner, who lost his playing privileges after dreadful years in 1996 and 1997, won his spurs again by winning the Madeira Island Open last year. "It was awful," he said. "I made up my mind that if 1998 was anything like the previous two years, I would give up tournament golf." That would have been premature — there's life in the *gammal hund* yet.

His round was full of good things, but it was borne to a higher plane by his putting. He needed only 23 of them, and his first was one from 15ft for an eagle on the 1st. He had birdies at the 2nd, 3rd and 6th, all with 20ft efforts, rolled home a ten-footer on the 7th and, after all that had gone before, the 3ft birdie putt on the 9th was little more than a tap-in.

There were more on three successive holes from the 12th and although he had a bogey after a ham-fisted bunker shot on the 16th, he pulled the shot back on the next hole. It was breathless, heady stuff, especially for a man who had missed six cuts out of eight appearances this season.

And finally, a small tale about Claydon. The roly-poly Cambridge man, a rabid Tottenham Hotspur supporter, was asked if he ever visited the Tour's mobile physiotherapy unit, which contains a fitness suite. "Yes, I did go in there once," he said. "It was good. I saw Spurs beat Southampton 5-3 on their telly." Who says there are no characters left in golf?

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.europeantour.com — news and scores.

TELEVISION: Sky Sports 1, 1.00, 7.30pm.

SQUASH

European title beckons Scotland

SCOTLAND'S men defeated Finland 4-0 in the final qualifying round of the European team championships yesterday to finish top of pool A in Linz, Austria (Colin McQuillan writes). It is doubtful if a more disparate squad of players ever entered a regional semi-final under a common flag.

Peter Nicol, the world No 1, British Open champion and Commonwealth gold medal-winner, of Inverurie, and Martin Heath, of Edinburgh were joined by John White, who learnt his squash in Queensland, Australia, and Neil Frankland, a tough little South Londoner, in the victory. The Scots last took the title in 1992, when Nicol was just the boy of a home-bred squad now scattered to the winds.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League

First division

Bolton v Wolverhampton (7.45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: Corby v Andover. **Midland division:** Solihull Borough v Sutton Coldfield.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: First division: Chester v Blackpool (12.0).

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Odd Down v Chippenham; Yeovil TR v Bishop Sutton.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Toddington v Beaconsfield Sycob

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Kings Norton v Oldbury.

CRICKET

PPP county championship

11.0, second day of four, 104 overs minimum

TAUNTON: Somerset v Yorkshire

11.0, third day of four, 104 overs minimum

CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Hampshire

CHELMSFORD: Essex v Warwickshire

CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Sussex

BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Middlesex

CANTERBURY: Kent v Derbyshire

LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Lancashire

NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Surrey

TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day of three: Hove: Sussex v Gloucestershire **Knowle and Dorridge:** Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire. **Worcester:** Worcestershire v Leicestershire **York:** Yorkshire v Somerset. **Final day of four: Southampton:** Hampshire v Kent.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 57

PRECES

(b) In liturgical worship, the short petitions which are said as verse and response by the minister and the congregation alternately. In Latin the word means prayers.

ROGER DE COVERLEY

(c) An English country dance (and tune). Also used with the prefix *Sir*, and abbreviated as *Sir Roger*. Women and men in lines opposite each other. Partners at top of the line birl in the middle right-handed, then the woman goes down the line of men twirling left-handed, then partner in middle right-handed. Man twirls up line of women. Man and woman then birl simultaneously, twirling off each other in the middle. It is easy.

PRAIRIAL

(b) The name for the ninth month of the French revolutionary calendar, extending from May 20 to June 18. In French *prairie* means a meadow.

ROTULA

(c) The kneecap or patella. "Little wheel", the diminutive of the Latin *rota*, a wheel.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1 Qxh7+! Kxh7 2 f6+ Kh6 (2 ... Kh8 3 Rxg5 and mates) 3 Rh4+! gxh4 4 Ne6+ Kh5 5 Bd1 checkmate.

TELEVISION CHOICE

A cornucopia of comedy

Smack the Pony; Frasier; Le Show; The Adam & Joe Show
Channel 4, 9.30-11.40pm

There is not, honestly, anything to match this Friday-night parade of comedy and grotesquerie. *Smack the Pony*'s first run ends in fine style, followed by a *Frasier* that keeps up this recently revived show's standard of scripts and acting. Take a taste break, if you must, during the vowel-mangling Antoine De Caunes' latest exercise in low-life trawling, but be sure to catch the soft-toy version of *Shakespeare in Love* from Adam Buxton and Joe Cornish, who also get Baadad into the Brit art scene: look out Damien.

Britain's Richest Kids
ITV, 9pm (except Ireland)

Our presumed national obsession with wealth and those who have it has brought forth another film about the plutocracy, this time those who are not yet 18 years old (although at least one achieves maturity during filming). Concentrating on the self-made millionaires and soon-to-bes, from computer hardware dealers who haggle between lessons on mobile phones, through a luxury-car dealer who gave up school at 11, to Charlotte Church, the soprano whose voice earned her a six-figure record deal at the age of 12, the film does not suggest that money is there for the adolescent asking: hard work and sacrifice are emphasised.

Desperately Seeking Stardom
ITV, 10pm

September Films, who brought us *Hollywood Wives*, *Pets* and *Sex*, now offer "Hollywood Wannabes": an eight-part series about six young people who would like to be film or television stars in Los Angeles. Two Britons and four Americans have been given a house to share for a few months, but must pay their own way otherwise as they variously hustle and audition to get a toehold on the ladder of fame. Your tolerance or liking for the exercise will depend on how attractive and involving you find Camilla and Chris (the Brits), Daniel, Deanna, Leo and Robbyn. If you think *Friends* crossed with *Fame*, plus a dash of docusoap indiscretion, you will have the flavour. Glossy, with longer soundbites than previous (shorter) September Films' productions.

Six "Hollywood Wannabes" are *Desperately Seeking Stardom* (ITV, 10pm)

Strassman
ITV, 10.30pm

Recent controversy about loveable hand-puppet Sooty sniffing dangerous substances notwithstanding, this is about as adult as ventriloquism gets. For much of the time David Strassman and his puppets, Chuck Wood and Ted E. Bare, commendably avoid the absolute crassness and blue humour of the British "adult" ventriloquists, but it has to be said that the language is ripe. The American's guests on this first show, of a series of six are Jilly Goolden and John McCririck, who are both sent up willingly, presumably recognising the value of such exposure. Strassman's routine with Ted E. Bare, regarding missing chocolates, is so funny and so clean that I could wish it were in a separate, pre-watershed show. Daniel Rosen provides music, *Mad Max* personal styling and additional laughs. All in all, this is a very promising series. **Tony Patrick**

RADIO CHOICE

The Pavlov Ballet
Radio 4, 11am

Cliffhanger crises are nothing new in ballet, or opera, come to that. Particularly vulnerable are the little companies that exist without benefit of public subsidy. The Pavlov Ballet, based in Bristol, is such a company, and it is in serious trouble. The sort of optimism you could almost feel was abundant in a couple of programmes about the Pavlovians heard on Radio 4 last December; there is little of it left now. Pavlov Ballet is the brainchild of Russian twins, Alla Chachina and Ella Gusova. Having recruited dancers from St Petersburg, Moscow and Surrey, they staged *Giselle*, which was rated a jolly good show. Tours followed. So did money worries. The question posed in Frances Byrnes's *The Pavlov Ballet* is: can it survive?

The Secret of Fire
Radio 4, 2.15pm

To computer illiterates such as myself, the infinite variety of uses to which the Internet can be put is beyond comprehension. The same goes, though to a lesser extent, for the mysteries of the correction of faults in the supply of domestic gas. Steve Hennessy's sombre drama about a mother (Valerie Lilley), a daughter (Rachel Smith) and a young man from the gas board (Andy Wear), takes a computer and the pilot light of a gas cooker and unsettlingly links them with something else I find difficult to fathom — what drives a man to do something to his daughter that will affect her life even when childhood has given way to womanhood. *The Secret of Fire* is not the kind of play that crosses all the T's and dots all the I's. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Chris Moyles **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Dave Pearce **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Pete Tong **9.00** Judge Jules **11.00** Westwood: Radio 1 Rap Show **2.00am** Fabio and Groovender **4.00** Emma B

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Des Lynam **7.00** The Michael Feinstein Songbook — Turns Another Page. The work of Frank Loesser (7/8) **7.30** Friday Night Is Music Night. From Golders Green Hippodrome in London, with Melanie E. Marshall, Robert Meadmore and the Katona Twins **9.15** Room at the Top. John Braine's novel **9.30** Listen to the Band **10.00** The Rodgers and Hammerstein Story (4/6) **10.30** Sheridan Morley **12.00** Lynn Parsons **4.00am** Jackie Bird

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News **1.00pm** John Inverdale **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Alan Green's Sportsnight. Preview of the San Marino Grand Prix and other weekend fixtures **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Nigh

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Motoring **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **3.00** OK! to Talk **5.00** The Sports Zone **8.00** Nicky Horne's Access All Areas **10.00** James H Reeve **1.00am** Mike Dickin

VIRGIN

6.30am The Breakfast Show **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **7.00** Wheels of Steel **11.00** Janey Lee Grace **2.00am** James Merritt

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** World Business Report **8.15** Insight **8.30** Focus On Faith **9.00** World News **9.05** Westway **9.20** Off the Shelf: Frankenstein **9.35** Science in Action **10.00** World News **10.05** Speaking Of English **10.20** The Vintage Chart Show **10.50** Sports Round-Up **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Britain Today **11.45** World Business Report **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Focus on Faith **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.45** Sports Round-Up **2.00** Newshour **3.00** World News **3.05** Science in Action **3.30** Music Review **4.00** World News **4.05** Football Extra **4.15** Science On A Plate **4.30** John Peel **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Insight **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Short Story **6.45** Sports Round-Up **7.00** World News **7.15** Britain Today **7.30** Focus on Faith **8.00** World News **8.05** Science in Action **8.30** The Way We Are **8.45** Off the Shelf: Frankenstein **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.05** World Business Report **10.20** Britain Today **10.30** Music Review **11.00** World News **11.15** Sports Round-Up **11.30** John Peel **12.00** World News **12.05am** Outlook **12.45** Insight **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Science in Action **1.55** My Century **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Meridian Books **3.00** The World Today **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.20** Sports Round-up **4.30** Weekend

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Music to get the day off to a fine start **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and Classic Masterpiece **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones plays favourite music **2.00pm** Concerto. Ho Zhan/Chen Kang (Butterfly Lover's Violin Concerto) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics, plus sport updates and travel news **6.30** Newsnight. Top stories and interviews with guests from the arts world **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classic sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Britten (Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra), Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 5): Strauss(Till Eulenspiegel): Mahler (Songs of a Wayfarer) **11.00** Mann at Night. Music through until the small hours **2.00am** Concerto. Ho Zhan/Chen Kang (Butterfly Lover's Violin Concerto) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

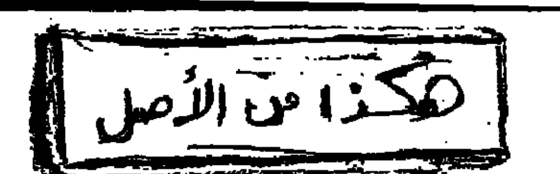
6.00am On Air Petroc Trelawny investigates a festival celebrating 300 years of St Petersburg
9.00 Masterworks Including Corelli (Concerto grosso in F, Op 6 No 12: Brandenburg Consort under Roy Goodman, violin); **9.12** Telemann (Cantata, Der Tod ist verschlungen in den sieg); **9.33** Mozart (Fantasia in D minor: Mitsuko Uchida, piano); **9.42** Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A: Boston SO under Leonard Bernstein)
10.30 Artist of the Week Clarinettist Emma Johnson
11.00 Sound Stories Richard Baker looks at the history of the post of Master of the King's Music
12.00 Composer of the Week: Duke Ellington
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Lyric Quartet. Gavin Bryars (String Quartet No 3); Ravel (String Quartet in F) (r)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philharmonic under Yan Pascal Tortelier, Barry Douglas, piano, Gintare Skeryte, soprano, Stephen Roberts, baritone, Kaunas State Choir. Hindemith (Symphony in E flat); Brahms (Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat); Faure (Requiem)
4.00 Music Restored Robert Hollingworth looks at some of the best Handel recordings (r)
5.00 In Tune Music includes Mozart's *Paris* Symphony, No 31, performed by the Orchestra of the 18th Century under Frans Bruggen
7.30 Performance on 3 James MacMillan conducts the BBC Philharmonic, with John Bradbury, clarinet, and Adrian Spillet, percussion. MacMillan (Sinfonietta; Tuireadh; Veni, veni, Emmanuel, Percussion Concerto
9.00 Postscript Derek Alsop explores what makes a great musical setting through five case studies
9.20 Tallis Scholars Victoria (Missa pro defunctis a 6)
10.00 Hear and Now Verity Sharp introduces a concert from the Nash Ensemble's "20th-Century Music" series, given last month on the South Bank, London, and talks to the featured composers, who span three generations. Valdine Anderson, soprano, Nash Ensemble under Martyn Brabbins. Huw Watkins (Sonata for cello and eight instruments — first performance); Mark-Anthony Turnage (Cortege for Chris); David Matthews (The Sleeping Lord); Julian Anderson (Towards Poetry); Jonathan Harvey (Song Offerings)
11.30 Jazz Century (Sounding the Century) Early Chamber Jazz (17/52) (r)
12.00 Through the Night Including **12.05** Schumann (Konzertstuck in F); **12.25** Peire d'Alverna (Dejosta, is breus jornae la lonca); **12.35** Beethoven (Piano Sonata in E, Op 109); **1.00** Rameau (Platee); **3.20** Poulenc (Sinfonietta); **3.50** Lefebure-Wely (Sortie in E flat); **4.00** Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor); **4.35** Strauss (Overture, Der Zigeunerbaron); **4.45** Federico Moreno Torroba (La marchenera); **5.00** Brahms (Fest-und Gedenkspruche); **5.10** Sandor Szokolay (Violin Concerto); **5.35** Brahms (Four Piano Pieces, Op 119); **5.55** Trad (Bagpipe Tunes)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast
5.45 Prayer for the Day With Pastor Lindsay Allen
5.47 Farming Today Anna Hill presents rural reports
6.00 Today With John Humphrys and Alan Little. Including Thought for the Day
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 Desert Island Discs Jazz musician Stan Tracey chooses eight favourite records (r)
9.45 (FM) Serial: Nathaniel's Nutmeg Ben Onwukwe reads the final extract from Giles Milton's book
9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship
10.00 Woman's Hour With Jenni Murray. Drama: Part five of *Postcards*, by Nick Darke
11.00 The Pavlov Ballet See Choice
11.30 Married Robin is accused of murdering his family. Last instalment of the comedy drama, with Hugh Bonneville and Josie Lawrence (6/6)
12.00 (FM) News
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.04pm You and Yours Consumer issues
1.00 The World at One With Nick Clarke
1.30 Feedback Presented by Roger Bolton
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: The Secret of Fire See Choice
3.00 Making History With Sue Cook
3.30 Naming the Universe Heather Couper investigates who will name the latest discoveries in the galaxy. Last in series (5/5)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle The Battle of the Boyne. Part 85 of the history of Britain, narrated by Anna Massey. (r)
4.00 Open Book Light-hearted look at how office life is depicted in fiction. Phillippa Gregory presents (r)
4.30 The Message Alex Brodie and his guests discuss current media trends
5.00 PM With Chris Lowe and Eddie Mair
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The News Quiz Topical quiz with Alan Coren, Linda Smith and Francis Wheen, hosted by Simon Hoggart
7.00 The Archers Where is Julia?
7.15 Front Row Arts review, presented by Mark Lawson
7.45 Postcards Flotsam and Jetsam. Part five of Nick Darke's tale, starring Diana Berriman. Paul makes a life-changing decision. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 Any Questions? MPs Menzies Campbell, Sir Edward Heath, Tony Benn and Daffyd Wigley address issues raised by an audience in Swindon. Nick Clarke chairs
8.45 Letter from America Alistair Cooke presents another slice of Stateside life
9.00 The Friday Play: Learning the Language A man follows the girl of his dreams to her native Spain, but encounters problems communicating his feelings. Romantic comedy by Harwant Bains, with Gregor Truter and Stuart Milligan (r)
10.00 The World Tonight News round-up, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Service of Clouds Joanna David reads the final instalment of Susan Hill's novel
11.00 (FM) Late Night on 4: Late Tackle Eleanor Oldroyd chairs a discussion on current sports issues, including rugby league's cup final between London and Leeds at Wembley, plus a look ahead to the cricket World Cup
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Update from Westminster
12.00 News
12.30am The Late Book: Biggest Elvis Ron Berglas concludes his reading of P.F. Kluge's novel (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.

Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe



To boldly go where most have gone before

This is what public service broadcasting is all about, I suppose. The BBC has always been excellent at popularising science for the few million Jude the Obscures who care to watch and here comes a shower of educational comets to crash on to our minds and wipe out the pea-brained Chris Tarrantosaurs.

By pure coincidence, the first instalment of **The Planets** (BBC2), which described the formation of the solar system in a blizzard of impacts, clashed with *The Last Train*, ITV's fantasy about life after a meteor strike. In the event, however, the programme made a rather gentle impression, leaving a relatively small crater in this viewer's consciousness.

The problem is that much of the material was familiar. We have seen the images of *Schumaker-Levy 9* crashing into Jupiter. We have crossed the rings of Saturn, in fly-past images and computer simulations. We have sailed the interplanetary void with Professor Stephen Hawking, safely tucked up in an advertisement for a chain of high-street opticians.

But this was the ambitious opening of a highly ambitious series and there were plenty of bright nuggets to keep us interested. Two histories were interlaced: the story of how the planets were discovered, named and explored and the emergence of a theory of how they were formed.

Emmanuel Kant, it seems, had worked out in the 18th century that the planets had probably "accreted" from a cloud of cosmic gas. This is impressive. Had Sophocles worked out evolution or Descartes twigged the theory of relativity?

Over billions of years, a vast disc of gas and dust, circling the Sun, coalesced into lumps of rock. These crashed into each other, forming larger bodies, until there were more than 100 mini planets. If the pictures of the planets themselves were familiar, the simulations of this cosmic chariot race were not and this sequence was the programme's most satisfying.

The dark side of space exploration has always been its intimate connection with military research. As Nazi Germany collapsed, the Americans raced to snatch Werner von Braun and his V2 technology before the Russians could get their hands on him. I expect the citizens of London would have liked to get their hands on him, too, but he was whisked off to New Mexico to start the space race.

It is chilling that the first space rockets were based on these dreadful weapons. "Isn't that beautiful," said a military observer at Nasa as *Mariner 10* passed Mercury in 1973. "It's just like a B52 drop in 'Nam." Aesthetic pleasure is a personal thing.

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

The star of the show was Hal Levison of the South West Research Institute of Colorado. With his beard and floppy hat, he looked like a piece of cosmic debris flung from the rock band ZZ Top. He talked like it, too. "All hell breaks loose," he said of the period of planetary accretion. "It's a very violent, happening party." For Levison the formation of the planets is the new rock 'n' roll.

The vistas of open space were closer to home in **Grand Designs** (Channel 4). We have programmes redesigning people's gardens and interior decor, so why not put up an entire house? This series follows the fortunes of people who realise what is probably a very common fantasy — designing your own home and getting it built.

Tim Cox and his partner Julia Brock, who already had four girls between them from previous relationships, were racing to build their cliff-top nest in time for Julia to have her third child in the new home.

I once stayed in a huge and well-appointed log cabin on a remote lake in the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York. It had been built in the 1930s from a kit sent by rail from the Midwest and assembled on site. The Americans, it seems, have a long tradition of self-assembly housing.

This is now spreading to Britain, where inevitably, we get it slightly wrong. The cheapest and easiest way to build your dream home is to mix-and-match from a selection of timber-framed instant housing segments. These arrive in flatpacks, like the MFI kitchen unit which fell off the wall of our first home, or the Ikea blanket box which still disassembles itself at quite regular intervals on our bedroom floor.

Fortunately, there are no cardboard boxes to clutter the new front garden for weeks and the builders used nails to put it together rather than the Allen key provided. But Tim and Julie still found that some of the windows didn't fit and the roof-tiles were not a bit like the ones they had seen in their heads.

This was a salutary programme. They had numerous problems, went over-budget and even sacked their architect. But they really loved the end result, achieved with the help of the presenter Kevin McCloud, a brisk and cheery realist, and I hope it stays up for many, many weeks.

American television audiences only seem to swallow biting social satire if it comes in the form of a cartoon. Despite its soft, sentimental centre *The Simpsons* still keeps up a machinegun spray of side-swipes at American culture. So does *King of the Hill*, while *Beavis and Butthead* and *South Park* dredge up grisly swamp-things from the murky pools of the adolescent mind.

So **Dilbert** (Sky One), the animation of the world's most popular comic-strip, apparently, belongs to what is rapidly becoming a hoary old tradition. It is gently surreal, in a Gary Larson sort of way, and plays havoc with the self-regarding idiocies of American business culture. Ribs were tickled, if sides not split.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (45498)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (81127)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (9438214)
9.45 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook (r) (T) (496479)
10.15 The Vanessa Show (T) (5944158)
11.00 News; Weather (T) (5399818)
11.05 City Hospital (T) (9509547)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (3190950)
12.00 Going for a Song (1483437)
12.25pm Just a Minute (T) (8233914)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (11099672)
1.00 News; Weather (T) (84214)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (58437924)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (16688721)
2.05 Ironside (r) (1583479)
2.53 Tales from the Net (T) (8770943)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (T) (2542634)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (8989818) **3.45** Roald Dahl's Revolting Recipes (5087295) *4.00* Anthony Ant (5263566) **4.15** Get Your Own Back (7753059) **4.35** The Mask (7977363) **5.00** Newsround (5909160) **5.10** Blue Peter (2777059)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (386924)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (189)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (769)
7.00 Weekend Watchdog with Anne Robinson (T) (9214)
7.30 Top of the Pops Featuring Westlife, Armand Van Heldon, Fatboy Slim and Martine McCutcheon (T) (653)
8.00 Only Fools and Horses Del and Rodney have a night out in the West End (r) (T) (5634)
8.30 The Builders The dust finally settles as Fiona and Richard eagerly await the builders' departure so that they can bring home their beloved dog from the kennels (8/8) (T) (4769)
9.00 News; Weather (T) (147950)
9.35 The Matchmaker Alun Jenkins invites guests from the Executive Club to a party on one of his members' yachts. Will the revellers hit it off? (T) (952276)
10.15 Real Women Susie's big day arrives (3/3) (r) (T) (120740)



Madonna and Willem Dafoe embark on a steamy affair (11.05pm)

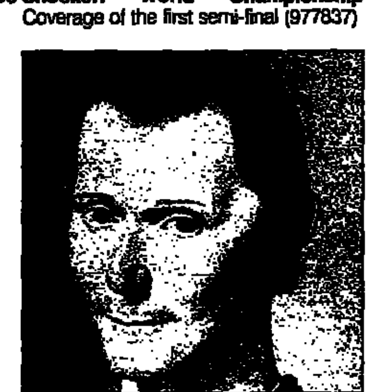
11.05 Body of Evidence (1992) FILM Lawyer Willem Dafoe is drawn into a bizarre sexual relationship with murder suspect *Madonna. Steamy thriller, with Anne* Archer. Directed by Uli Edel (T) (928189)
12.35am The Cisco Kid (TVM, 1994) FILM Western, starring Jimmy Smits and Cheech Marin as two righteous cowboys *trekking across the prairie.* Directed by Luis Valdez (T) (5882710)
2.05 Weather (5980623)
2.10 BBC News 24 (22492807)

WALES

9.00am-9.45 Election Call (2/4) (T) (9438214) *9.30-9.35 Party Election Broadcast* (T) (388059) **2.05am-2.10 News** (T) (5980623)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Noddy *in* Toyland (83585) **7.30** Top Cat (8488189) **7.55** 50/50 (8736382) **8.18** Rewind (9605295) **8.20** Dastardly and Muttley (8441653) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (3924672) **8.50** Tales of Aesop (3920856) *9.00 Daytime On Two: Isabel* (4462301) **9.10** Sportsbank Dance (8753905) **9.45** Come Outside (7812363) **10.00** Children's BBC: Teletubbies (45837) **10.30** Daytime On Two: Megamaths (9909566) **10.50** Look and Read (9912030) **11.10** Landmarks (1363382) **11.30** The Animated Epics (9672) **12.00** Shakespeare: The Animated Tales (50108) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (78092)
1.00 Children's BBC: Johnson and Friends (38682301)
1.10 Snooker: World Championship John Higgins plays Mark Williams in the first semi-final (84753214)
6.00 The Simpsons (r) (T) (347301)
6.20 Lee and Herring's This Morning With Richard, Not Judy (r) (T) (255856)
6.50 Snooker: World Championship Coverage of the first semi-final (977837)



Niccolo Machiavelli's philosophy comes under the spotlight (7.30pm)

7.30 Walden on Villains Brian Walden reassesses the relevance of Italian political theologian Niccolo Machiavelli's philosophy — that the preservation of authority justifies the means of government, *however wicked — in his* 1532 book *The Prince* (4/5) (T) (295)
8.00 As the Crow Flies Janet Street-Porter examines the life of 17th-century writer John Bunyan as she travels from Bedford *to the M25, and takes a stroll with Elton* John (T) (3276)
8.30 Gardeners' World The team look at the garden trade's preparations for the Bank Holiday weekend (T) (5011)
9.00 Have I Got News For You *With Trevor* Phillips (T) (5479)
9.30 Snooker: World Championship John Higgins v Mark Williams and Stephen Hendry v Ronnie O'Sullivan (55295)
10.30 Video Nation Shorts (T) (677498)
10.35 Newsnight (T) (165061)
11.18 Tales from the Net (T) (535108)
11.20 Later with Jools Holland With Skunk Anansie and Mercury Rev (984295)
12.20am Sex, Censorship and the Silver **Screen** Films released from 1933 to 1950 (3/6) (4637081)
1.20 Torment (1944) FILM Swedish thriller. A schoolboy falls for a prostitute. Starring *Mai Zetterling.* Directed by Alf Sjoberg (391420)
2.55 Weather (2435826)
3.00-5.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Bitesize Revision: Spanish (10246)

WALES

10.30pm-10.35 Party Election Broadcast (677498)

HTV WEST

5.30am ITV Morning News (41160)
6.00 GMTV (2371924)
9.25 Trisha (T) (3024295)
10.30 This Morning (T) (49631363)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7594547)
12.30 ITV News; Weather (T) (2118301)
12.55 Up the Creek (r) (T) (1284479)
1.30 Home and Away (T) (16684905)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5542363)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2548818)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5249214)
3.15 HTV News (T) (5248585)
3.20 CITV: Maisy (5245498) **3.25** Big Bag (5228721) **3.35** Animal Stories (5092127) **3.45** Giggly Bitzl (5072363) **4.00** Pump It Up (108) **4.30** Dexter's Laboratory (932)
5.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (1818)
5.30 Sportsweek (672)
5.58 HTV Weather (988672)
6.00 HTV News (T) (585)
6.29 HTV Crimestoppers (505498)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (837)
7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right (T) (4382)
7.30 Coronation Street (T) (721)
8.00 Parking Wars An habitual offender attempts to persuade clamper Mark to let him off (6/6) (T) (3030)
8.30 Motorway Life The emergency services are put under pressure during the last *Bank Holiday of the summer* (T) (9837)
9.00 CHOICE Britain's Richest Kids Intimate profiles of high-flying teenagers (T) (7189)
10.00 CHOICE Desperately Seeking Stardom Six young hopefuls search for fame and fortune (T) (48363)



Ventriloquist David Strassman and his alter ego, Chuck Wood (10.30pm)

10.30 CHOICE *Strassman New series, with* the American ventriloquist David Strassman (T) (57011)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (612194)
11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (654672)
11.35 Millennium (r) (502740)
12.30am Dial a Date New series. Game show in which viewers have the chance to date the contestants (61062)
1.00 Popped In, Crashed Out New series. *Phil Alexander coerces celebrity guests* back to his flat for a riotous round of music trivia (16739)
1.30 Club@vision (2145401)
2.10 The Haunted Fishtank (r) (7480623)
2.40 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (2550623)
3.25 Trisha r (r) (T) (8452536)
4.25 Night Shift (74385888)
4.45 ITV Nightscreen (91216449)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (55130)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: **12.55pm-1:30 Get Gardening!** (r) (T) (1284479) **5.30-5.58 Quiz Challenge** (T) (672) *6.25-6.29 Party Election* **Broadcast** By the Welsh Liberal Democrats

CENTRAL

As HTV West except **12.20pm-12.30 Central News**; Weather (T) (9712276) **12.55 Home and Away** (T) (2193092) **1.25 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (4374108) **2.10-2.40 Wish You Were Here?** (r) (T) (89347479) **3.15-3.20 Central News**; Weather (T) (5248585) **5.30 Surprise** *Gardeners* (T) (672) **6.00-6.30 Central News at Six**; Weather (T) (585) **11.20-11.30 Central News**; Weather (T) (924943) **11.30-12.35 Late Tackle** (798295) **2.20am The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1823062) **3.00 Box Office America** (64179888) **3.25 The Haunted Fishtank** (r) (64181623) **3.50 Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (9107178) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (3419284)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News**; Weather (T) (7594547) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (9720295) **12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live** (T) (2193092) **1.25 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (4374108) *2.10-2.40 Home and Away* (T) (89347479) **3.15-3.20 Westcountry News**; Weather (T) (5248585) **4.59-5.00 Birthday People** (5491540) *5.30* **Westcountry Weekend** (T) (672) **6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live**; Weather (T) (585) **11.20-11.30 Westcountry News**; Weather (T) (924943) **11.30-12.30 Movie Magic** (r) (23455)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News**; Weather (7594547) **12.55-1.30 Shortland Street** (1284479) **5.30 Under Offer** (1/10) (672) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (585) **7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather** (641059) *11.20-11.35 Meridian News; Weather* (T) (654672) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (55130)

ANGLIA

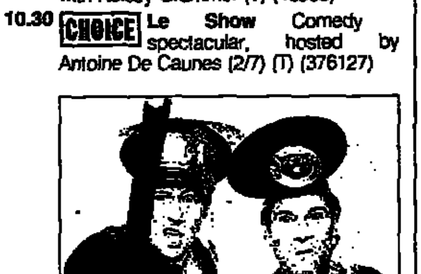
As HTV West except: **12.14pm Anglia Air Watch** (9725740) **12.15-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7594547) **12.55-1.30 Shortland Street** (1284479) *5.29 Anglia Air Watch* (6723360) **5.30 Home Grown** (672) **5.58 Anglia Weather** (T) (988672) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) (585) **11.19 Anglia Air Watch** (522634) **11.20-11.35 Anglia News and** *Weather* (T) (654672)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (28407295) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (69374059) **9.00 Ysgolion:** Off Limits (92435295) **9.25 Schools at Work** (92699585) **9.30 Eureka** (37104127) *9.45 Stop, Look, Listen* (37192382) *10.00* **The Complete Cosmos** (54147491) **10.10 The Mix** (62096160) **10.25 News** (62015295) **10.45 Same Difference** (15319818) **10.50 What's the Story** (39366905) **11.05 The Number Crew** (47997382) **11.15 Stage One** (25742818) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (90079653) **12.00 Home Improvement** (T) (63808721) *12.30pm Sesame Street* (T) (93706189) *1.00* **Planed Plant** (T) (69344818) **1.30 The Three Stooges** (r) (99610189) **1.55 Racing from Newmarket and Punchestown** (15732547) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (99746479) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (99735363) **5.00 Planed Plant** (41117276) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (99759943) **6.00 Party Election Broadcast** (70578547) **6.05 Newyddion 6** (T) (70577818) *6.10* **Heno** (T) (39071108) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (41120740) **7.30 Darllediad Etholiadol** (56258943) **7.35 Newyddion** (T) (31607059) **8.05 Galw'r Fet** (T) (84053214) **8.35 Y Clwb Rygbi** (T) (52269479) **9.05 Y Byd Ar Bedwar** (T) (57754721) **9.35 Friends** (r) (T) (84275127) **10.05 Brookside** (T) (51580479) **10.40 Etholiad '99** (29065769) *10.55* **Frasier** (T) (81561566) **11.25 Le Show** (2/7) (T) (85101837) **11.55 TFI Friday** (75515856) **1.00am 4 Later**; Pulp (30563352) **1.20 Flava** (47381159) **1.55 The Mod Squad** (42343352) *2.50 Vids* (r) (229 38710) *3.20 FILM: The* **Awakening** (97022913) **5.00 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (5477363)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (74837)
9.00 Schools: *Off Limits* (7420276) **9.25** Schools at Work (3674837) **9.30** Eureka (7819276) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (7847059) **10.00** The Complete Cosmos (7715450) **10.10** The Mix (1036498) **10.25** News (1024653) **10.40** Same Difference (8114363) **10.50** What's the Story (3475740) **11.05** The Number Crew (5305479) **11.15** Stage One (6827672)
11.30 Powerhouse (4740)
12.00 Sesame Street (T) (45276)
12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (63160)
1.00 Suddenly Susan (77924)
1.30 The Three Stooges (r) (16682547)
1.55 Racing from Newmarket and Punchestown Including the **2.05**, **2.35** and **3.10** races from Newmarket, and the **3.15** from Punchestown (T) (69935672)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (450)
4.30 Countdown (T) (7994030)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (9749363)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (214)
6.00 TFI Friday Chris Evans is joined by Joan Collins and Geri Halliwell (88479)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (594653)
7.55 Margaret Thatcher: Where Am I Now? An animated look at the Thatcher years. Last in the series (5/5) (T) (418943)
8.00 Real Gardens New series. In the first programme, Monty Don, Carol Klein and Anne Marie Powell meet a man with a passion for topiary and concrete ornaments, and help a woman to restore the area surrounding her old manor house (1/20) (T) (1672)
8.30 Brookside (T) (7479)
9.00 Friends (r) (T) (1117)
9.30 CHOICE Smack the Pony Offbeat sketch show, with Fiona Allen, *Doon Mackichan and Sally Phillips. Last* in the series (7/7) (T) (83924)
10.00 CHOICE Frasier Niles and Frasier throw a dinner party. Comedy, with Kelsey Grammer (T) (46905)
10.30 CHOICE Le Show Comedy spectacular, hosted by Antoine De Caunes (2/7) (T) (376127)



Adam Buxton and Joe Cornish take the mickey (11.05pm)

11.05 CHOICE The Adam and Joe Show Featuring a soft-toy tribute to *Shakespeare* (3/6) (T) (151030)
11.40 TFI Friday (r) (810914)
12.45am 4 Later Introduction, Pulp (3218333)
1.05 Flava The black music scene (8268888)
1.40 The Mod Squad (7226352)
2.35 Vids (r) (5983710)
3.05 The Awakening (1980) FILM Charlton Heston *stars as an archaeologist who is* convinced his baby daughter is possessed by the spirit of an Ancient Egyptian queen. Chiller, with Susannah York. Mike Newell directs (T) (676913)
4.55 Concerto Beethoven's First Piano Concerto (2/6) (r) (4364710)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (5232585)
7.00 Wideworld (r) (T) (2182301)
7.30 Milkshake! (2987059)
7.35 Muppet Babies (4301672)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (8181905)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r)e (8180276)
9.00 The Roseanne Show (r) (5894214)
9.50 Russell Grant's Postcards (r) (8202547)
9.55 The Bold and the Beautiful Sheila reveals her feelings for James (T) (8038566)
10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (4594127)
11.10 Leeza (3259092)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8184092)
12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T) (6380491)
1.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (4152653)
1.50 McMillan: Dark Sunrise (TVM 1977) FILM A failed murder attempt leads Mac on an undercover assignment to track down his own would-be killers. Mystery, starring Rock Hudson. Directed by Robert Finkel; 5 News Update (28294160)
3.15 Wuthering Heights (1970) FILM Adaptation of Emily Brontë's classic tale about an enigmatic gypsy's love for the headstrong daughter of a well-to-do Yorkshire family. Timothy Dalton and Anna Calder-Marshall star. Directed by Robert Fuest (33834479)
5.10 5 News (T) (59580189)
5.15 Russell Grant's Postcards (39015856)
5.30 100 Per Cent (6489856)
6.00 5 News; Weather (T) (6486769)
6.30 Family Affairs (T) (6460721)
7.00 In the Net (2/4) (2496905)
7.30 Wildlife SOS III New series. Cameras follow the trials and traumas experienced *by the dedicated army of volunteers at* the Wildlife Aid animal rescue and rehabilitation centre (1/13) (T); 5 News Update (6466905)
8.00 Island of Ghosts The natural and cultural history of the island of Madagascar (T) (9670672)
9.00 Women of Valour (TVM 1986) FILM Second World War drama about the courage and determination shown by a group of American Army nurses held in a Japanese PoW camp. Starring Susan Sarandon, Kristy McNichol, Alberta *Watson and Terry O'Quinn. Directed by* Buzz Kulik (T) (49539127)
10.50 Lexx: The Dark Zone Stories The crew return to the Cluster (r) (3135160)
11.50 Shades of Gray (1994) FILM Former LA *police sketch artist* Kelly Burns marries a trucker who is subsequently framed for murder by her jealous former boyfriend. Tense thriller, with Doug Jeffery. Directed by Jag Mundhra (74562837)
1.55am The Happening (1967) FILM A group of ambitious young crooks hold a powerful underworld boss to ransom, but his nearest and dearest refuse to pay up. Crime drama, starring Anthony Quinn. Directed by Elliot Silverstein (5875975)
3.45 The Painted Smile (1961) FILM A female con artist becomes convinced that a fugitive *murdered her partner, despite his* protests to the contrary. Suspense thriller, starring Liz Fraser. Directed by *Lance Comfort* (8451352)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (4131081)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (4741307)

SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*



SKY ONE

7.00am *Count Duckula* (27943) **7.30** Godzilla (99950) **8.00** Pokemon (16699) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (90740) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (17127) **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (99914) **11.00** Guilty! (22498) **12.00** Jenny Jones (15547) **1.00pm** Mad About You (26214) **1.30** Jeopardy (28011) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (80924) **3.00** Jenny Jones (37295) **4.00** Guilty! (49030) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (4547) *6.00 America's Dumbest Criminals* (8479) **6.30** Friends (2059) **7.00** The Simpsons (5276) **7.30** The Simpsons (1943) **8.00** The Simpsons (4924) **8.30** The Simpsons (3059) **9.00** World's Most Incredible Animal Rescues (47160) **10.00** Cops (16635) **10.30** Cops (88905) **11.00** Friends (57059) **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (72276) **12.30am** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (63842) **1.30** Law and Order (35642) **2.30** *Long Play* (3217888)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) **U-Turn (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **US Marshals (1998)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Titanic (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Fire Down Below (1997)**

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Courage Mountain (1990) (59301) **8.00 Indiscretion of an American Housewife (1998)** (79818) **10.00 Free Willy III: The Rescue (1997)** (38498) **12.00 Courage Mountain (1990)** (92789) **2.00pm Hello Again (1987)** (79769) **4.00 Indiscretion of an American Housewife (1998)** (4491) **6.00 Free Willy III: The Rescue (1997)** (59905) **8.00 Wilde (1997)** (54450) **10.00 The Full Monty (1997)** (350585) **11.35 Sweet Nothing (1994)** (356479) **1.05am** *Flirting with Disaster* **(1996)** (915158) **2.40 The Deliverance of Elaine (1996)** (2831642) **4.10 Hello Again (1987)** (401062)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.40am No More Bethel (1997) (64906011) **7.15 The Baby-Sitter's Club (1995)** (80456585) **9.00 Love is Strange (1997)** (84740) **11.00 To Face Her Past (1996)** (51634) *1.00 The Baby-Sitter's* **Club (1995)** (95856) **3.00 Love is Strange (1997)** (76092) **5.00 To Face Her Past (1996)** (84189) **7.00** P-Review (3672) **7.30** How to Get Ahead in Film (6011) **8.00** UK Top 10 (9092) **8.30** Movie Magic: Old and New Friends (8127) **9.00 The Sixth Man (1997)** (62479) **11.00 Spawn (1997)** (333943) **12.40am Zombiethon (1986)** (9450772) **1.55 Flatliners (1990)** (379333) **3.50 Crowfoot (1995)** (1016420)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm The Desperate Hours (1955) (7794653) **6.00 Tarzan Goes to India (1962)** (3354914) **8.00 The Lighthorsemen (1988)** (4809009) *10.00 The War of the* **Roses (1989)** (7782189) **12.00 Wall Street (1987)** (2217246) **2.00am None Shall Escape (1944)** (2244710) **3.30 Tight Spot (1955)** (8944307)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Short Films (834818) **8.00 LA Takedown (1989)** (8839363) **10.00 Heat (1995)** (95825092) **12.50am Poison (1990)** (12907517) **2.55 The Farm: Angola, USA (1996)** (2874642) **4.30 Godzilla v King Ghidorah (1991)** (4225449)

TNT

9.00pm WCW Nitro (65075769) **11.35** WCW Thunder (42802943) **1.30am Cry Terror (1958)** (57837994) **3.15-5.00 The Karate Killers (1967)** (84408420)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** Wrestling **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style **10.00** Formula Three **10.30** Formula Palmer Audi **11.00** Football League Review **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style **12.30pm** World of Cricket **1.00** Live European Tour Golf **5.00** Futbol Mundial *5.30 What A Weekend* **6.00** Sports Centre **7.00** World of Cricket **7.30** European Tour Golf **10.00** Sports Centre **11.00** Hold the Back Page **12.00** Premier League Preview **12.30am** Sports Centre **1.30** World of Cricket **2.00** World Wrestling Federation Raw **4.30** Football **5.30** World Sport Special

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Rebel Sports **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Trans World Sport **10.00** US Golf **12.00** Rugby Club **2.00pm** What a Weekend **2.30** World Sports **3.00** Survival of the Fittest **3.30** Sports Unlimited **4.30** Formula Palmer Audi **5.00** Formula Three **5.30** World Sport **6.00** Moto-Plus **6.30** Sailing **7.00** Live Friday Night Football **10.00** US Golf **12.00** Football **1.30am** Moto-Plus **2.00** Sailing **2.30** Sports Centre **3.30** US Golf **5.30** Moto-Plus

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am Trans World Sport **1.00pm** Formula Three **1.30** Formula Palmer Audi **2.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook *3.30 Football League Review* **4.30** Trans World Sport **5.30** Watersports World **6.30** Inside the Senior PGA Tour **7.00** Max Power **8.00** Trans World Sport **9.00** Motor Sport **9.30** Extreme Sailing **10.00** World Wrestling Federation. Raw **12.00** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Golf **8.30** Football **10.00** Modern Pentathlon **11.00** Football **1.00** Racing Line **2.00** Live Tennis **3.30** Football **5.30** Truck Racing **6.00** Motor Sport **7.00** Sumo **8.00** Boxing **10.00** Ten Pin Bowling **11.00** Extreme Sports **12.00** Mountain Biking **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda *5.00 Dangerfield* **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em **7.40** Last of the Summer Wine **8.20** Dad's Army **9.00** Only Fools and Horses **9.40** The Student Prince **11.40** The Bill **12.10am** The Bill **12.40** Dr Who Omnibus **2.25** Dad's Army **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Wish Me Luck **7.00** Plus On Plus *7.30 The Odd Couple* **8.00** *Families* **8.30** Mind Your Language **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** Charlie's Angels **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale **1.00** Mind Your Language **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Charlie's Angels With Kate Jackson **6.00** Emmerdale **6.30** Classic Coronation Street [illegible]



Wesley Snipes plays a fugitive on the run from the law in the tense thriller *US Marshals* (Sky Box Office 2)

7.00 The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** Hale and Pace **10.30** The Comedians **11.00** Granada Men and Motors

CARLTON SELECT

[illegible]

DISNEY CHANNEL

[illegible] Pocket Dragon Adventures **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush [illegible] **1.00** Bite Size **1.12** Rosie and Jim [illegible] Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter [illegible] New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh [illegible] Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid [illegible] Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** [illegible] The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** [illegible] Ann **6.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen [illegible] Boy Meets World **7.00** FILM: [illegible] She Purred: A Mrs Murphy [illegible] (1998) **8.30** Honey I Shrunk the [illegible] TV Show **9.15** Dinosaurs **10.00** [illegible]

FOX KIDS NETWORK

[illegible] Rent **12.05pm** The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: The New Adventures of the Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** EekIStravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Extreme Ghostbusters **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Hey Arnold! **8.30** Doug **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Franklin **2.00** Paddington Bear/Lizzie's Library/Portland Bill/Mr Men/Ivor the Engine **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** The Secret Life of Alex Mack **7.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **8.30** Rab C Nesbitt **9.00** Cops **9.30** The Late Lounge **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: The Fly II (1989)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** *The Late Lounge* **2.00** *Martial Law* **2.30** Rab C Nesbitt **3.00 FILM: Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia (1974). Violent thriller, directed by Sam Peckinpah. With Warren Oates and Isela Vega** **5.00** Extreme Wrestling **5.30-6.00** Cops

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Caroline in the City [illegible]

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

[illegible] **12.00** The Twilight Zone **12.30pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **6.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **7.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **8.00** Amazing Stories **8.30** Highlander: The Raven **9.30** *The Hunger* **10.00 FILM: Tank Girl** **12.00 FILM: Odin** **2.00am** Cybernet **2.30** 100 Years of Horror **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Simply Painting **6.30** Instant Gardens **7.00** Potted History with Antony Henn **7.30** The Great House Game **8.00** Australia's Strangest Home Improvements **8.30** The Close Guide **9.00** *The Joy of* Painting **9.30** Grow for it **10.00** Instant gardens **10.30** Antiques Challenge **11.00** *Hooked on Fishing with Paul Young* **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Total Fishing with Matt Hayes **12.00** These Four Walls **12.30pm** Doorstep DIY **1.00** The Furniture Guys **1.30** Gimme Shelter **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Two's Country

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** The Diceman **5.00** The Pacific War **6.00** Outback Adventures **6.30** Savannah Cats **7.30** How Did They Build That? **8.00** The World's Most Dangerous Animals **9.00** The World's Most Dangerous Animals **10.00** Flea Zone **11.00** Zambezi Shark **12.00** Ancient Sharks **1.00am** How Did They Build That? **1.30** The Diceman **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

11.30am Underwater Encounters **12.00** [illegible]

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

[illegible] Babies **10.00** Return of the Eagle **11.00** Selva Verde **12.00** Elephants of Timbuktu

HISTORY

4.00pm Secrets of War: Korea — Stalin's Secret Air War **5.00** Thomas Edison: Phonograph **6.00** The Monkey Trial **6.55** Photos for the Future **7.00** The Gurkhas

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** Turner's Tour of *Hong Kong* **10.30** *Jenny Bristow's Country* Cooking **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** Ideal Home Cooks **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** French Lunch **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour **2.00** Can't Stand the Heat **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Food Factory **3.30** *Ideal Home Cooks* **4.00** A Year at Ballymaloe **4.30** Tessa's Tastebuds **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.30** Animal Rescue **7.00** Professor Bubble **7.30** Polka Dot Shorts **7.40** Johnson and Friends **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** My Zoo **8.30** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** Home and Away **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich *11.40 The Heat Is On* **12.10pm** *Through* the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Home and Away **5.10** Through the Keyhole **5.40** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00 FILM: Family Rescue (TVM 1995)** **11.00** Sextasy! **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

5.30am Gulderta **6.00** Sorry Meri Lorry [illegible]

BASKETBALL 57
Finch hoping for final flourish with the Sharks

SPORT

SNOOKER 58
Williams on course to hit jackpot at the Crucible



Salary increase reflects regard for new man at England helm

FA asks Keegan to chart rise

By Oliver Holt, Football Correspondent

THE Football Association will next week express its gratitude to Kevin Keegan for finally succumbing to its overtures when it brings the England manager's salary into line with the earnings of his club counterparts and awards him a £1 million-a-year contract.

Keegan revealed late on Wednesday night that he had decided to commit himself to a long-term future with England and admitted for the first time that he would be unable to continue to combine the job with the task of managing Fulham, the Nationwide League second division champions.

The deal has not yet been signed, but sources close to Lancaster Gate suggested that he would be offered a three-year contract worth £3 million to guide the England team through to the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea.

Instead of England manager, his official title will be "senior England coach", which is perhaps meant as recognition of the work done by Howard Wilkinson, the technical director, and by Keegan's lieutenants, Derek Fazackerley and Arthur Cox.

The FA, which has been impressed with the transformation that Keegan has wrought in the attitude in the England camp since the departure of Glenn Hoddle, has put its money where its admiration is.

It might have paid Terry Venables only £150,000 when he was in charge and grudgingly upped Hoddle's salary to £350,000 by the time of his resignation, but the FA has now recognised that someone of Keegan's calibre and charisma deserves a salary in the same bracket as men such as Alex Ferguson and George Graham.

The FA is keen not to rush Keegan into signing but, in the aftermath of England's draw

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with Hungary in Budapest on Wednesday night, Keegan stood in a basement room at the Nep Stadium and admitted that he had become utterly gripped by the honour and the inspiration of being England manager.

He hinted that he would step down as Fulham manager at the end of this season and, although he did not rule out the possibility of moving to a loftier role, such as director of football, at the club, it was clear he had misgivings about anything other than committing himself totally to his country.

"It is not possible to combine the jobs in the form it is being done at the moment," Keegan said. "I am not a fool. I know what is right and what is wrong and I do not want to compromise either job.

"It is possible to still do something at Fulham but I am telling you I won't just take it to be a figurehead. I will have to contribute and if I can't, even if they offer me some money to do it, then I won't take it. They know that because I have told them.

"I'm going to make sure, though, that every decision we make for Fulham is thought through and is the right one to enable them to continue the upward direction they are going. That is my concern now.

"What is sure is that I will definitely take the England job on a full-time basis. Whether it is after a transitional period while we get Fulham sorted out remains to be seen. I am really concerned that Fulham is done right. I have got to get it right for the fans and the players who have been fantastic to me.

"The important thing is that when I make this change I will feel I am better prepared than I have been for the first two England games I was in charge of. I will do more for myself. I will do things an England manager has got to do that I have passed on so far.

"I would like to go and see our opposition play. I think you should do that and circumstances have not allowed me to do that until now. The people who have done it for me have done a great job and we have watched videos but it is not like being there."

As usual he spoke with uncommon passion about the reasons why he had deviated from his original course, which was that he would do the England job for four games and four games only before he returned to Craven Cottage to oversee the rise and rise of Fulham.

He spoke of the thrill that he had when he walked out at Wembley for his first game in charge, against Poland last month, and of how he was determined that the players should know that he was there for the long haul before they begin to prepare for their crucial European championship qualifying ties against Sweden and Bulgaria at the beginning of June.

"If everybody could do what I have done, they would have perfection," he said. "I have been able to come in and have a look around and make my own judgment on the job. Not everyone is that privileged and I just feel I can't play games with everybody.

"I've really, really enjoyed it. It doesn't worry me, it doesn't scare me. I can see the pitfalls but I can also see a lot of pluses, and working with the players has been an absolute dream.

"I think for their benefit and with the two games against Sweden and Bulgaria coming up that they will be pleased we can all get on with it now, as opposed to everybody guessing what I am going to do. My heart tells me to take it and that's what I go by so let that be my judge.

"The chance that it wouldn't come round again is another reason why I knew I had to take it. You shouldn't be picky and choosy about the England job and I didn't mean to be that way but my circumstances dictated that it was like that.

"I suppose really I made up my mind that I wanted it when I took it part-time. Having done it for two games, I really feel I belong here. The atmosphere in the game against Poland at Wembley was a massive influence on me.

"Walking out there, I felt at ease, very comfortable. I love Wembley. I care about the England team. When I used to stand up on the gantry in my job for ITV and they played the anthem, there was a part of me wishing I was down there singing it and picking the team. Now I'm doing it."

The future he saw was bright. He managed to steer away from talking about winning World Cups, but he did mention part of his motivation for taking the job was the realisation about how many young players were coming through.

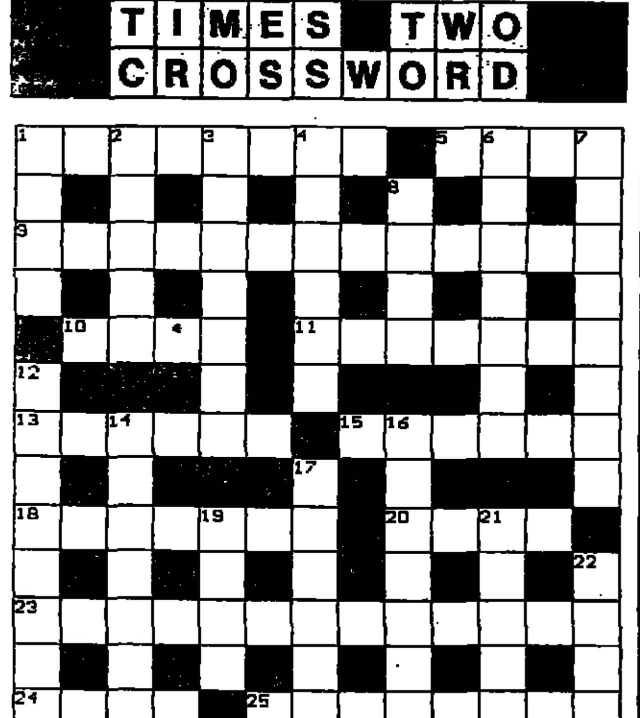
When someone reminded him that he had once suggested he was not the man to lead England to a 0-0 draw in Ukraine, he had an answer ready for that, too.

"Would you settle for a 1-1 draw?" he said.



MARC ASPLAND

Keegan is untypically pensive as he watches his England team during the 1-1 draw against Hungary on Wednesday



Cox, the former Newcastle United and Derby County manager, will be one of Keegan's assistants

Wimbledon rejects equal pay for women

By Alix Ramsay
Tennis Correspondent

WOMEN'S tennis may be flavour of the month and Anna Kournikova may be the most photographed tennis player on the planet, but, at the All England Club, some traditions die hard. Despite the petitioning of the women's tour to give their players equal prize-money with the men, Wimbledon has declined the request and announced yesterday that it will, as ever, present the men's champion with a biggest cheque of the Championships. Nevertheless, the Wimbledon prize fund for 1999 has increased overall by 5.4 per cent to £7,595,330.

Wimbledon is not alone in its view that the men deserve more than the women. Only the US Open, home of all things politically correct, offers equal prize-money. The other two grand-slams — the French and Australian Opens — agree with Wimbledon's thinking of offering equal pay only for equal work. With the women playing best-of-three-set matches and the men best-of-five, the latter spend more time on court than the women and have to work harder for their corn.

John Curry, the chairman of the All England Club, was at pains to point out yesterday that tournaments on the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Tour have, on average, smaller prize funds than events on the men's Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour. "We've had representations from the WTA and there is supposed to be a petition signed by 90 players, which we've heard about but haven't seen, in which they say they deserve and demand equal prize-money," Curry said. "I'm sure what we have done will not meet that need, but it seems strange that they're demanding 100 per cent prize-money when the WTA pays 50 per cent less than is paid at ATP tournaments."

Not that the women's champion will be out of pocket. Two weeks' work will net her a healthy £409,500, an increase of £18,000 on last year but still £45,500 less than the men's champion, who will walk away with £455,000. Where the women have done considerably better is in the doubles, where the prize fund has been increased by 10.5 per cent to reflect the strength of the draw over the past few years. The champions will split £167,770 between them.

The fact remains that the harder you work, the more you earn. Last year, Jana Novotna took home £468,580 for her efforts in winning both the singles and the doubles, with Martina Hingis — £33,000 more than Pete Sampras, who concentrated on the singles alone.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1705

ACROSS
1 (Small part) left over (8)
5 Restless desire (4)
9 A splitting into small parts (13)
10 Unfreeze (4)
11 Convent (7)
13 Bequest (6)
15 Meditation word (6)
18 Annunciation angel (7)
20 Space (4)
23 Intact; unharmed (3,2,3,5)
24 Dip (cake into tea) (4)
25 Boring, colourless, quality (8)

DOWN
1 Frill; trump (4)
2 Portion; blade of plough (5)
3 Popular, colloquial (7)
4 Canvas shade (6)
6 Three-pronged weapon (7)
7 General repairer (8)
8 Profit (4)
12 Reactionary body (3,5)
14 Type of (Paris) tapestry (7)
16 Wither (7)
17 Marianne's sister (*Sense & S*) (6)
19 St Columba's Scot. island (4)
21 Too fat (5)
22 Hawk's leg-strap (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1704
ACROSS: 7 Veto 8 Algernon 9 Gifted 10 Echoes 11 Jinx 12 Childish 15 Intrepid 17 Hurl 18 Chased 21 Gambit 22 Fruition 23 Go/on
DOWN: 1 Sedition 2 Cortex 3 Handicap 4 Ogre 5 Orchid 6 Lore 13 Indigent 14 Survivor 16 Russia 17 Homage 19 Harm 20 Dais

Botham fires World Cup salvo

Richard Hobson finds the former England captain using his 'ambassador' role to distinctive effect

Six years on from his retirement Ian Botham has not lost the knack of upsetting cricket officialdom. Yesterday, on a tour to promote the World Cup funded by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), he could not resist criticising the host nation's preparations for the tournament, which begins on May 14.

Botham, speaking at Headingley, said that England should not have participated in the Coca-Cola Cup in Sharjah earlier this month and that he thought members of the 15-man squad were playing for their counties as punishment for performing poorly.

Although the ECB declined to comment on suggestions that Botham had caused them embarrassment, the former captain turned broadcaster is likely today to be reminded of his duties as a member of the "World Cup Ambassador Group" — a band of celebrities including Caprice and Rory Bremner who have been employed to generate favourable publicity.

Botham said: "It is wrong for players to risk picking up injuries in county cricket before the competition. Australia have got it right. They do not have naughty-boy nets if they get beaten: they learn from it. I get the impression our boys are playing county cricket now because they did not do well in Sharjah.

"I would have sent them away en bloc for five or six days to get to know each other and do a bit of bonding. The Australians are getting their feet up in the Bahamas after the West Indies tour so they will be refreshed and hungry again.

"I did not think there was any point in England going to Sharjah. The conditions were completely alien and the players had just had a very hard tour of Australia. When I look at guys like Darren Gough, who bowled his guts out in Australia, he would have been better off on a desert island with his family."

The international players have used the early season matches to re-adjust to English conditions and, in certain cases, to try to rediscover lost form. As for Australia, it can be argued that a gap of 13 days between the end of a keenly contested series that finished amid riots, and the first warm-up game against Glamorgan on May 8, is too short to ensure full recuperation.

Adam Dale, the Australia medium-pace bowler, has declared his fitness for the World Cup after leaving the Caribbean because of pneumonia. He will fly out to rejoin his colleagues today.

Botham: outspoken

IN THE TIMES TOMORROW

Christopher Martin-Jenkins opens his innings as Chief Cricket Correspondent by examining how the game in England can get back on track. Martin-Jenkins, the voice of cricket, has joined The Times and will lead our coverage of the World Cup.



Cork takes charge, page 54
Ramprakash feasts, page 55
County scoreboards, page 55